International Scientific Conference
"THE BALKAN YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW"

JUNE, 29th 2012  South East European University - Tetovo, Macedonia.

JUNE, 30th 2012  Institute of Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians - Skopje, Macedonia.

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International Scientific Conference
"THE BALKAN YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW"

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACT BOOK

JUNE, 29th 2012  South East European University - Tetovo, Macedonia

JUNE, 30th 2012  Institute of Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians - Skopje, Macedonia.
ORGANIZED BY
The INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES - SKOPJE

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CONTENTS

About IPIS........................................................................................................................................... 5
IPIS Scientific Committee......................................................................................................................7
IPIS Organizing Committee.................................................................................................................9
Conference Program..........................................................................................................................11
Abstract Book.....................................................................................................................................19
Directory of participants.....................................................................................................................73
The Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental and non-profit, think-tank organization. It has been created by a group of intellectuals and analysts with extensive experience in foreign policy and policy-making issues who are interested in ideas of democracy, solidarity, globalization, European integration, political and international studies and regional cooperation. The long term objectives of the institute are to work on balanced socio-economic development, capacity building and training, active citizen engagement and participative political environments. In these directions we focus our activities on rule of law, evidence based policy research, good governance and multi-ethnic and multicultural co-existence. Our Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) works primarily on stoichiometric research and project-based activities. We believe that human capital is a key precondition for positive social change. Hence, we eagerly undertake capacity building projects based on said skills and knowledge transfer. IPIS’s growth is directly linked to an availability of resources for self-reflection. In this sense, we advocate policy recommendations and strive to enrich public discourse through promotion of evidence based policy, publishing, public events, diligent team work and individual productivity and working closely with other national and international research institutions.

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individual researchers, professionals, journalist, students, civil society organizations and interested parties. No important national or regional policy issues will be discussed without IPIS experts taking part in the debate offering analysis on said issues. IPIS will be sought out, as a provider of policy advice, by governments, civil society organizations and private companies. We believe that IPIS's research work, carried out with patience and persistence, will bring new life to public policy; good governance will be advanced, knowledge increased, and human existence improved. We will be respected and admired by our peers and academics. Our analyses and policy solutions will be actively sought by governments and companies. The best up-and-coming people in the academic world will seek to cooperate with our think-tank. We feel that IPIS will contribute to society in a positive way.
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**Motivation**

Today, the term “Balkans” is the object of numerous discussions and discourse in scientific and politic spheres. It is in the center of socio-political realization of professional and graduate mobility. Today, we are 100 years after the Balkan wars.

In these years international borders, political systems and other issues concerning the states of Southeast Europe. However, these changes were always related to international issues and developments until today. Even after 100 years, since the Balkan wars, the countries of the Western Balkans are not members of the EU, a fact which testifies that this region is not Europeanized yet, and has often balkanized the European politic. 100 years after and the Balkans are still in the focus of European diplomacy. Today, the stability of the region will depend on the solutions that will occur.

With the organization of this conference, we would like to learn from the past and offer a vision for the future of the region, and analyze the historical aspects of the Balkan wars. The conference aims to combine thoughts and studies of the different actors of historical, political, economic, cultural, etc. importance. Through research or analysis of the various actors of the science of history, politology, and other social sciences we try to see the reality of 100 years ago, the reality today and in the forthcoming years. Looking at the existing problems of the Balkan and approaching them with the experience of foreign and regional authors, we think that we will help this scientific research by giving facts, analyses, new researches and documents.

Director,
Prof.Dr.Ylber Sela
CONFERENCE PROGRAM
FRIDAY, JUNE 29 2012
08.00-09.00: REGISTRATION
CONFERENCE OPENING SPEECH 09.00-09.30

Prof. Dr. Zamir DIKA,
Rector of the South East European University;

Prof. Dr. Ylber SELA,
Director of the Institute for Political and International Studies;

H.E. Mrs. Gudrun STEINACKER,
German Ambassador in Macedonia.
SESSION 1
Chairman: Blerim REKA

1. Ida ORZECHOWSKA
   The Diverse Nature of a State and the Regional Stability - preWestphalian, Westphalian and post-Westphalian Western Balkan States and the Stability of the Region Over the Centuries

2. Branislav SINADINOVSKI
   The Balkan Tinderbox, Then and Now

3. Gjergj SINANI
   Nation, Nationalism and National Identities in the Balkans

4. Krisztián CSAPLÁR-DEGOVICS
   The Forgotten Third Balkan War: a Research Desideratum and a Challenge for the Historian

5. Olga KHRUSTALEVA
   The Balkans and the Concept of Human Security

SESSION 2
Chairman: Demush BAJRAMI

6. Iwona JAKIMOWICZ-OSTROWSKA
   Balkans Politics from Polish Perspective - last 20 years

7. Sylë UKSHINI
   From the Ottoman Empire to Yugoslavia to Independence
8. Selam ISEJNI  
Perception of Balkan Wars of the Early XX Century by the Population of the Albanian Students in Macedonia

9. Fejzulla SHABANI  
The Diplomacy of the Great Powers during the Balkan Wars and the Albanian issue

10. Fehari RAMADANI, Memet SELMANI  
Balkan Wars, Austria-Hungary and Albanian issue

11. Cristina MATIUTA  
Decentralization and Regional Policy in Balkans, Case study: Bulgaria

SESSION 3  
Chairman: Sadri RAMABAJA

12. Qerim DALIPI  
Albanian Lands in Serbian-Bulgarian Talks at the Beginning of the First Balkan War

13. Nebi DERVISHI  
Diplomatic History of the Case of the Monastery of Saint Naum 1913-1925

14. Muhamed ALI  
Turkish Diplomacy in the Western Balkans in one hundred years of the Balkan Wars

15. Meli SHOPI, Denis HIMCI  
The Roma Community and the Balkans
16. Zeqirja REXHEPI
   Franco - German Relationship as a Reflection of the Albanian issue in the Balkans

SESSION 4
Chairman: Mixhait POLLOZHANI

17. Ledian RUSTA
   The Deconstruction of Some Myths in the Albanian Discourse Concerning the Conception of the European Idea

18. Mandeta MINXHOZI
   Multiculturalism and Diversity: Multinational and Multi-ethnic States in Balkans

19. Kadri METAJ, Kushtrim AHMETI
   Borders in the Balkans as a Metaphor for War and Peace

20. Misho NETKOVSKI
   Balkan Electronic Media between Multiculturalism and Ethnocentrism

21. Rozeta BICI
   Continual Positive Approach in Respect to the Cultural Diversity and Separations
SATURDAY, JUNE 30 2012
08.00-09.00: REGISTRATION
OPENING SPEECH 09.00-09.30

Prof. Dr. Ylber SELA,
Director of the Institute for Political and International Studies;

Prof. Dr. Shefqet ZEKOLLI,
Director of the Institute for Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians - Skopje, Macedonia.

SESSION 1
Chairman: Ali PAJAZITI

22. Begzad BALIU
   The Status of Topography in the Balkans

23. Elvira LUMI, Rudina MITA
   History and Myths, an Object of Conflict in Literature

24. Gordana SINADINOVSKA
   Macedonia in Light of the Balkan Combat

25. Jonuz ABDULLAI
   Political Changes in Balkan after the Cold War
SESSION 2
Chairman: Taulant HODAJ

26. Mirela SINANI
   The Problem of Scientific of Construction of History and Its Mutual Acceptance as an Essential Element in the Process of Building Bridges of Cooperation and Integration of the Peoples of the Region

27. Skender ASANI, Albert HANI
   Similarities of Trajectories of Interests of the World Powers in the Past and Now (Proposals of Berthold for decentralization of the Ottoman empire in 1912, Ohrid framework agreement and the proposals of Ahtisaari in 2003)

28. Vera STOJCEVSKA-ANTIC
   Comparison of the Albanian and Balkan Folk Works with Initiation

29. Joana KOSHO
   The Balkans and European Integration: the Balkan States Transformation within the European Perspective

SESSION 3
Chairman: Pishtar LUTFIU

30. Isak SHERIFI
   The Role of International Missions during the Conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina

31. Veton ZEJNULLAHI
   The Situation of Albanian in Preshevo Valley

32. Dervish ALIMI
   Challenges of the Balkans during the Centuries
ABSTRACT

BOOK
"The Diverse Nature of a State and Regional Stability - pre-Westphalian, Westphalian and post-Westphalian Western Balkan States and the Stability of the Region over the Centuries"

Ida Orzechowska
Institute of Political Science, University of Wroclaw, Poland

Abstract

A sustainable development and security of the Western Balkan region requires mutual understanding among the participants of the regional system (regional security complex), as well as mutual predictability. Both the understanding and the predictability depend strongly upon, first the nature of the states creating the system, and second on the awareness of this nature. The author assumes that the significant differences of the nature of the states in the regional system (being a subsystem of the global international system) may result in a considerable destabilization of the region related to a perceived insecurity, misunderstandings and unpredictable actions undertaken by states varying one from another. The proposed paper is aimed at examining the evolution of the Western Balkan countries over the centuries based on the distinction between premodern (pre-Westphalian), modern (Westphalian) and postmodern (post-Westphalian) states, and to indicate the relationship between the level of diversity in the type of state within the region, as well as, the stability of the region. The analysis starts with the pre-Westphalian era, however, the focus of the research concerns the
period of the Balkan Wars at the beginning of the 20th century and of the breakup of Yugoslavia by the end of the century. Moreover, the author aims to take into consideration the current state of interaction and level of diversity, and tries to formulate lessons to be learned and recommendations for the future.
"The Balkan Tinderbox, Then and Now"

Branislav Sinadinovski
Visiting Professor from Arabian Universities

Abstract

The Balkans former and present status of the tinderbox, whose capsule could very easily explode any moment, is the impact of the existence of different interests not only in regional but entities of a wider region that are directly related to their global and regional economic and military and also political targets for this strategically important area, so it’s completely autonomous and independent development of the Balkans is practically impossible, starting from the time of the Ottoman Empire until today. Therefore, any attempt to fully consider the various economic, political, psychological and other components, and trying to determine the laws of creation and development of this conflict, and the efforts the same to be totally explained, is faced with the ever present dangers of the overestimation of one kind of factors on the account of another. All this objectively disabled finding a balanced and final solution for the conflict, which would allow his actors with the greatest possible tolerance toward the aspirations of the opponent, not to deny their own priority values. Having all this in mind, the way out of that Balkan deadlock should be sought within the democratic forces of the Balkan countries, which in order to reach the desired goals, the European Union and NATO, should have a much better self-organized and tightly linked universal plan, in other words they must create a loose or a stronger alliance in the form of some kind of unity such as that of the Benelux countries. It primarily refers to the people of Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia.
"Nation, Nationalism and National Identities in the Balkans"

Gjergj Sinani
University of Tirana, Albania

Abstract

The reawakening of nationalism, after the collapse of communism, is not a sudden phenomenon. Such a phenomenon existed before 1945 as a reality in the Balkans. Nationalism as inter-ethnic war which closed the Balkans, during this period, must not be seen as a pathologic phenomenon. The violence of nationalism must not be seen as a phenomenon which is directed towards others, but must be seen inside this phenomenon. Thus, nationalism tries to unite all the parts and the actors of a nation causing them to be more conscientious and in solidarity. In such a perspective nationalism is a passionate search of national identity which can be realized only with an effort towards itself because it is considered threatening. Taking into account such a perspective the paper will be focused on the process of how national identities in Balkans are created. For example, how Balkan countries, through some processes which can be summed up as the identification of ancient personalities, process that concern with regards to historical and cultural efforts. Thus, finding out and glorifying ancient historical personalities in the functioning of daily political discourse. The myth of origin plays an important role in the discourse of creation of national identities. A nation relies on its founding myths. The national identities in the Balkans cannot be understood without understanding the consequences of the collapse of the three great empires of the time; the Ottoman Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire and Russian Empire. The Balkan countries face the difficult problem of considering their history, from which derive a lot of methodological problems in considering the
past, i.e. the past and how it is used for a national identity. The paper will focus on minorities and their use of such issues for political purposes. The problems for minorities are specific and cannot be reduced to other problems, and this is the reason that such problems require specific solutions.
"The Forgotten Third Balkan War: a Research Desideratum and a Challenge for the Historian"

Krisztián Csaplár-Degovics
University ELTE-Budapest, Hungary

Abstract

In September of 1913 Albanian troops invaded the newly occupied territories of Serbia. After crossing the Black Drin River the corps of Isa Boletini captured Debar and marched forward along the banks of the Vardar River towards Skopje. The Serbian government reacted promptly to this attack: 150,000 men were mobilized and forced the Albanian troops to retreat. The counter-offensive of the Serbian army, however, did not stop at the border marked out by the London Conference. The attackers invaded the territory of independent Albania and occupied the most important strategic points in the country. Only an ultimatum from Austria-Hungary forced the occupying army to leave Albania. This paper will contribute two topics during the conference. On the one hand, I will point out that the national historiographies have not turned their attention to researching Boletini's war which was called 'the Third Balkan War' by the contemporary press. The first part of the paper will refer to the Albanian and Serbian historiographical concepts and conclusions that were elaborated on in the 20th century. The second topic examines the general situation of the historian who characterizes the social heritage of the Balkan wars. How should a history of such a violent series of events be written which concern national identities even today, and which may tear open “national wounds”? How should the joint history be dealt with? These questions pose an extremely complex problem. Why, because, besides their scholarly interest, these problems possess ethical and emotional issues as well. To identify these parts and to begin a discussion about them may be the first important step of the historian in order to make past events truly part of the past. Past events must be made history.
"The Balkans and the Concept of Human Security"

Olga Khrustaleva
Saint Petersburg State University, Russia

Abstract

A hundred years after the Balkan wars, the region remains "Europe's tinderbox" with endless debates about Kosovo independence and ongoing court hearings at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. However there hasn't been much progress in recent years and in Kosovo, for example, the situation seems to be a political dead-end. Still not recognized by several EU members and about half of the countries worldwide, Kosovo has an ambiguous status which affects its citizens, deprived of free travel and many things common to the 21st century. As a country with unsolved territorial issues Russia wouldn't recognize Kosovo in the nearest future. This is an important political fact. However, the roots of Russia’s position on the situation in the Balkans go beyond politics. Having strong historical ties with Serbia and sharing the same confession it is natural and traditional for Russia to support its Slavic brother country. History's heroes and villains are usually the same people depending on which side you are looking from. There can be no truth in a conflict because each side defends its own truth which results in numerous casualties among civilians. According to Human Rights Watch about 500 civilians were killed during NATO’s bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999. A lot more were killed in the previous decade. With civilian casualties we can never say that the number is small or that it was worth it; is a wasted and often young life is always worth living? Therefore a new concept of human security can be tried out in the Balkans. Human security doesn't undermine national and international security but makes a person regardless of his views, religion and occupation the main object of a country’s
concern. Though sometimes criticized for being utopian, the idea of human security can be a big step forward in understanding that we actually have more in common than differences. Threatening a neighbor and ruining historical monuments is destructive, both ethically and politically. Thinking of a single person as an important and worthy element of a system and not as food for the flames or a means to achieve political goals is constructive and is possible to introduce in rather small Balkan countries.
SESSION 2
Chairman: Demush BAJRAMI

"Balkan Politics from the Polish Perspective - last 20 Years"

Iwona Jakimowicz-Ostrowska
The Naval Academy in Gdynia, The Humanistic and Social Science Department, Poland

Abstract

With the political changes in south-eastern European nations let us consider what Poland thinks about Balkan countries. Public discussion allows us to view the main problems of modern political changes in the Balkan region. Moreover, Poland’s need for freedom and political manifestation of its nationality is common with the Balkan problems of reconstruction south-east Europe. This text will be based on Polish materials and documents signed between Poland and some countries of the Balkan region, or published in the Polish press. Poland participated, not only as a member of the EU, but also (before 2004) as a partner in many political decisions, international cooperation, or humanitarian aid which helped the Balkan region integrate with the EU. Both parts of Europe had common experiences after 1945, and the year 1989 was a historical point when they had to start creating a new picture of the region. It also let me show the process of political redefinition of the goals, aims or aspirations in modern European structures. The main questions are: What do people in Poland really know about the political situation in the Western Balkans? How did the Poland change its opinion about the Western Balkans? What kind of information was underlined in the Polish press and public debate? How to build common international
relations in the future? The last twenty years seem to bring new opportunities for cooperation in many fields. The word "Balkan" means more than the region of south-eastern Europe to Polish ears.
"THE BALKAN YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW"

"From the Ottoman Empire to Yugoslavia to Independence"

Sylë Ukshini
Department for Balkan in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kosovo

Abstract

The Balkan Wars of 1912/1913, which had its epicenter in Vilayet in Kosovo, ended in 1999, marking the conclusion of the last chapter of the Versailles Treaty’s Yugoslavia that was created upon the ruins of two empires: the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires. Kosovo, which was a composition of the Ottoman Empire, after five centuries was conquered by Serbia and Montenegro in the first Balkan War of the year 1912 and after nine decades under the Belgrade’s repressive regime, declared its independence on 17th of February 2008. The independence of Kosovo comes as a correction of compromise of the European Powers at the London Conference. Remaining of the Vilayet of Kosovo under Serbia was the most unjust and unfair border for the Albanians, but since it was a compromise of the European concert, the aim was to preserve the European peace and prevent war between Austro-Hungary and Russia.

But this tragic compromise for Kosovo Albanians made that European peace ephemeral, as two years later started the World War I. The Ottoman Empire dissolution and European powers’ unwillingness at the London Conference to correct what had to be corrected, paved way for confrontation on the global scale, the outbreak of the World War I. One hundred years later, this part of the Balkans, once known as the European part of the Ottoman Empire, continues to be the key of the European Stability from the geo-cultural as well as the geo-political perspective. Especially the future of Albanians, who live in Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, is the key of
the Balkans. Along with the European decision-making centers, especially after dissolution of Yugoslavia and the end of the Cold War, we have a redefinition of their geo-strategic position, and therefore regain a new international dimension. Besides Turkey, recently there emerges a more intensive role of Germany, which for Kosovo and the Albanians in general is of the vital interest. If it has always been considered that the position of the German interest ends somewhere at today’s Croatia borders, Middle Bosnia Line, Sanxhak-Kosovo-Albania-Macedonia and Bulgaria to today’s Turkey, once as the Ottoman Empire, it is the vital artery of geo-politics and geo-culture of the Balkans. Therefore, the achievement of Kosovo independence shall make the Albanian factor more important than ever in the region since the Balkans wars of years 1912/1913. In this context, consolidation of this generation, where the Albanians are majority, not only paves the way greatly reducing Serbia’s impact in the Balkans, but also creates favorable preconditions for new relining in the region. In a word, Kosovo shall be a sort of barometer of the Balkans policy for many European countries. By this work, we aim to describe consequences of the Balkan wars in the Albanian lands, respectively in Kosovo, its partition by the Serb and Montenegrin troops. We try to illustrate the long way of Kosovo since the dissolution of the European part of the Ottoman Empire all the way to the proclamation of its independence in 2008, and its geo-strategic importance to dynamic redefinition in the regional and European scene after the end of the Cold War and the dissolution of Yugoslavia.
"Perception of the Balkan Wars of the Early XX Century by the Population of the Albanian Students in Macedonia"

Selam Isejni
State University of Tetovo, Macedonia

Abstract

The Balkan wars of the early twentieth century undeniable led to the construction of a new reality in the Balkans which is understood even after one hundred years. But the explanation of causes was not always objective when seeking answers for the question, Why is not possible for the Balkan Peninsula, the Balkan peoples and nations remain on a stable peace? Even though all possible forms, the official history of the Balkan countries and history taught in schools and from history discussed by intellectuals and debated at conferences, topics about the Balkan Wars of the early twentieth century there has occupied considerable place, but almost completely lacks relevant outcome of genuine knowledge from those who have to benefit from this knowledge, so by students of today, intellectuals of tomorrow, experts and politicians that coming anyway, that would be local, regional and international policy makers. This research will try to arrive at the result of where will be noticed, by the relevant scientific survey, in what level is the knowledge of the Albanian student population in Macedonia about the Balkan Wars of the beginning of the twentieth century, respectively, do they recognize the real causes for start of year 1912-1913 wars, what were the aspirations of the combatants, do they known the epilog, what are consequences of wars conducted by the Balkan countries (London Conference of 1912-1913) and eventually similarity observed geo-political situation and geo-strategic Balkans after the full one hundred years. The aim of the paper is the coming result of research to be a relevant indicator reflecting the reality that characterizes the Albanian
student population, with specific emphasis on the knowledge that they possess on the Balkan Wars and the consequences arising from them. Justification for the need of such research lies in the fact that after a century, seeking to build a new Balkan reality with new political stricture and new map, in a Euro-Atlantic integration era, the generation that experiences this period however have need to reflect on the past before hundred years, to justify actions that will builds the future of the Balkan peoples.

**Key words:** Balkan Wars (1912 - 1913); Albanian students, history, the Balkans, reflecting on the past; Macedonia;
"The Diplomacy of the Great Powers during the Balkan Wars and the Albanian issue"

Fejzulla Shabani
State University of Tetovo and SEE-University, Macedonia

Abstract

This topic will elaborate on both the diplomatic and militaristic aspects, during the Balkan wars, the general attitude of the great powers upon the events in the Balkans and in particular the Albanian issue. The paper will mainly be based on unpublished documents, bringing new facts about the events taking place in the Balkans before and during the Balkan wars, wars that were theoretically focused against the destruction of the Ottoman Empire, but in practical terms, aimed at the partition of Albanian lands. Based on the documents of that time, this topic will make the comparison and the difference that existed between the great powers in relation to events in the Balkans, on the eve and during the Balkan wars, while on the other side will also argument on which has been the great powers attitude toward the Albanian issue and also the attitude that Balkan states had toward Albanians. Also in this paper, based on documents will clarify the diplomatic roles that have developed Albanian patriots and military organization in defense of Albanian lands. The conclusion of the paper will deal with the Albanians attempt to be part of the Balkan alliance, but in accordance with documents will be evident that the Balkan states excluded Albanians from the beginning because this alliance aimed at partition of Albanian lands.
"Balkan Wars, Austria-Hungary and the Albanian issue"

Fehari Ramadani
State University of Tetovo, Macedonia

Memet Selmani
State University of Tetovo, Macedonia

Abstract

At the beginning of the 20th century the position of the Ottoman Empire was weakened in the Balkan Peninsula. At the same time, the national consciousness and nationalist feelings began to grow to the people of this peninsula. Balkan states, such as Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria and Montenegro, increased their efforts to expand territorially at the expense of people who still were part of the Ottoman Empire. These states developed feverish nationalist propaganda encouraging their people to rise against Istanbul government.

In the summer of 1912, leaders of the Albanian uprising and Ottoman government reached an agreement, in which Sublime Porte took over to recognize some of the Albanians rights under Ottoman rule. This agreement worried Balkan governments because the recognition of rights to the Albanian people would hit the invasive aims of Balkan states. One of the main purposes of the Balkan states was occupation of Albanian territories. In October 1912 the Balkan states decided to attack the Ottoman Empire to prevent the implementation of this agreement. The occupation of the Albanian territories by armies of Balkan allies was in opposition to the strategic interests of Austria-Hungary in the Balkans. The government of Vienna was in rivalry with Russia for dominance in peninsula. The invasion of Adriatic’s Albanian coast from Serbia meant widening of the Russian influence in this area, because Serbia was loyal ally of Russian government. This was unacceptable for Austria-
Hungary, so they persisted to the request for the creation of an independent or autonomous Albanian state. Albanian patriots, headed by Ismail Qemali, in November 1912 declared the Albanian independence only after they received the required guarantees from Vienna. Even the territorial extension of the new Albanian state which recognized by the Conference of Ambassadors in London was firstly result of commitment of Ballhausplatz diplomacy.

Since the 19th century, Vienna was and remained the most loyal and important ally of Albanian people even after the declaration of national independence. Albanians would have suffered losses even greater than those of the years 1912-1913 without help of Austria-Hungary.
"Decentralization and Regional Policy in Balkans, Case study: Bulgaria"

Cristina Matiuta
University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract

Decentralization is seen, in the literature that analyses the process of transition to democracy in former communist countries, as a very important factor for development and democratic consolidation. Many scholars point out that the real effects of decentralization, besides the legal framework, depend on two other very important factors: "first, the authority in question must have a decision-making competence; second, the authority in question should dispose of necessary measures to accomplish its tasks". In other words, decentralization can work only when substantial tasks and powers are transferred with staff and financial means to match. The aim of this paper is to analyses the legal framework of decentralization and regional policy in Bulgaria and to evaluate the implementation of these regulations and the problems raised in this country. The ratification of European Charter of Local-Self Government and especially the pressure of the European Union to implement the Communitary Acquis and to create the mechanisms and institutions in order to manage the EU funds allowed for economic and social development imposed the improvement of legal framework related to decentralization and local/regional development in Bulgaria. Considered by the authorities as the real turning point in the way that decentralization is treated, the laws on decentralization assert the principle of subsidiary (defined as the exercise of the competencies by the authority of local public administration which is more closely to the citizen
and which possesses the necessary administrative capacity) as being of the basis of decentralization process. At regional level (the intermediate level) the regional development structures and policies were created as a direct result of negotiations with European Union and its politics in this field. Six development regions were formed on the basis of districts depending on their geographical location, economic development, number of population and prospects for development. Also, Bulgaria has adopted the Operational Programs *Administrative Capacity Development 2007-2013* and *Regional Development 2007-2013* which, together with other sector-based programs, are meant to bind the process of modernization of state administration with the process of decentralization and to ensure a closer link between the process of decentralization and the regional development policy, in order to improve the EU funds absorption at municipal and regional level. However, I think that the efficiency of the development regions and institutions in Bulgaria remains to be proved because, until now, these institutions have not worked very well. Many reports, elaborated by NGO’s and think-tanks working on the issue of public administration, emphasized the failure of regional development policy, caused by the weak regional institutions, having limited and unclear defined competences and by the delimitation of the regions without a thorough research and analyses of relevant figures. The paper suggests the necessity to rethink the status and the responsibilities of these institutions, as solutions for a more efficient decentralization and economic development.
SESSION 3
Chairman: Sadri RAMABAJA

"Albanian Lands in Serbian-Bulgarian Talks at the Beginning of the First Balkan War"

Qerim Dalipi
State University of Tetovo, Macedonia

Abstract

This paper will rely mainly on Serbian diplomatic documentation concerning the Serbian-Bulgarian talks which resulted in the agreement of March 13, 1912. According to Serbian diplomacy, the Albanian rebellion that started in the beginning of 1911, could serve Austro-Hungary to realize the objectives in the Balkan Peninsula. Hence, the Serbian government started to analyze the Bulgarian attitude regarding an agreement. Consequently, the Serbian-Bulgarian talks were accompanied by a strong rivalry, especially on the division of interest spheres in Macedonia, including East Albanian lands. During the talks, Bulgaria agreed to give up of Macedonia’s autonomy and accept Serbia’s authority on the south of Sharr, as well as Skopje. Of course, both sides discussed on other plans regarding the division of Albanian lands during the talks. However, both countries succeeded in overcoming the differences and working on an agreement on friendship and alliance, especially of fear of Austro-Hungarian engagement on creating autonomous Albania that would expand eastwards to the Vardar River, with Bitola as its capital.
"Diplomatic History of the Case of the Monastery of Saint Naum 1913-1925"

Nebi Dervishi
State University of Tetova, Macedonia

Abstract

The issue of the Monastery of Saint Naum had been among the most difficult, and larger, problems to have emerged during the implementation of the decisions taken during the Conference of Ambassadors, which dealt with the eastern boundary of Albania and the Kingdom of Serbia (Kingdom of Yugoslavia (SCS). It drew more attention and was treated quite long in some international authority. Problem came from the interpretation of border line that described in the Protocol of London of 11 August 1913, which was drafted in the decomposition of the final decision of 29 July 1913, on the borders. The issue of the border between Albania and the Kingdom of SCS (Yugoslav) border line defined in the Protocol of Florence completion of 26 July 1926. The author in the paper based on the experience of foreign authors, research, analyzes, new documents withheld at the Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (File: Allocation of the borders of Albania), Yugoslav documents (about 40 documents), etc. , will shed light moment with new facts and geopolitical character, diplomatic, legal, historical, scientific, cultural and religious, etc.
"Turkish Diplomacy in the Western Balkans in one hundred years of the Balkan Wars"

Muhamed Ali
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Abstract

The Balkan Peninsula has always attracted the attention and interest of regional and global powers throughout its history. One of the most dominant global factors in this strategic region was the Ottoman Empire which played the dominant factor role within the strategic, political, economic and social balance of this peninsula. In contrast of the Roman and Byzantine period, the Balkan Peninsula had a “central” position during the Ottoman rule, as many highly ranked personalities positioned on vital places of the Ottoman state organs were exactly from that region. The Ottoman rule of the Balkan Peninsula came to an end with the beginning of Balkan Wars, which also initiated a new period of strategic and political balances of the peninsula. As a successor of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey had intensive political activity towards the Balkan region in the period between the two World Wars. The establishment of Balkan Pact and the active participation on the Balkan conferences represent a valid argument for the above mentioned statement. With the beginning of the Cold War, Turkey’s external politics (as a NATO member) towards the Balkans was in accordance with the Western strategies and policies towards this region. A new period started immediately after the Cold War came to an end, where Turkey faced a political gap on the Balkans as it was a situation in which Turkey had to create new policies. Prime Minister Erdogan’s period of rule which coincides with one hundred years after the Balkan Wars is characterized by a development of new strategies and policies towards this peninsula, especially the Western Balkans with an intention of
making Turkey once again a relevant factor in this region. Multidimensionality, zero problems with neighbors, intercultural dialogue are only some important principles of the above mentioned strategy. The high economic growth, investment increase, powerful army, active diplomacy and democratization of the Turkish state represent important factors which could determine the further factorization of Turkey in this region.

**Key words:** Ottoman Empire, Balkan Wars, Erdogan’s rule, Turkish factorization.
"The Roma Community and the Balkans"

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Abstract

People with different histories and cultures have passed through the flow of history fighting and protecting their origins and identities. It is and it remains a valuable work as well as noble to study exactly this flow, starting from the origins and progress in the stages and formations through which they have passed. The knowing of the people’s existence, which are distinguished not only from the geographical territory, but as well from the language and culture, features and everything else which is special and shown up, but to some extent common to the other Balkan’s people, and exactly the Roma community, will be the focus of this article. The Balkans with great ethno-cultural traditions have been supporters and shelter for all the coming communities. It is analyzed and studied a lot about these people. Through the analysis of historical - linguistic materials, we will analyze the Roma community people as an integrated community with the living of the Balkans. But as far as the Roma community in the historical - scientific level is concerned, there is very little material written, not to say nothing, compared to the other people’s. This article will be a continuation of the very few researches done by foreign and Albanian researchers, whether historians or linguists. As well, it will serve to the all those who have even the slightest desire to know closer this community with human values.
"Franco - German Relationship as a Reflection of the Albanian issue in the Balkans"

Zeqirja Rexhepi
State University of Tetovo, Macedonia

Abstract

One of the most complex issues, to be dragged throughout the twentieth century in the troubled Balkan region, is the Albanian question. The roots of this problem, with European character must be sought mainly in the historical conflict-relations between France and Germany. Therefore, by trying to analyze the historical relationships of these two powers we can put light on how did they reflected towards the Albanian question in the Balkans. At the London Conference (1913), the incorrect solution of the Albanian question is the direct result of the rivalry of the Franco-German antagonism, as a consequence, in the period of national awakening of the Albanian people, the Austro-German and the Franco-Russian. Alliances were made on the threshold of World War I, during a complicated international circumstance; Albanians were not included into the alliance of the Balkan countries, becoming victim of these states, supported by Tsarist Russia with its ally, France. The only supporter of an autonomous Albania, the Austria-Hungary, was considered as a great power, but it had lost its former splendor and moreover that had become a fragile state - threatened by the concept of nation state. The contemporary Franco-German relations, after many historical contradictions and bloody wars, which are held by United Europe project, somehow satisfy the appetites of these two great powers to be "stretched" on the continent and in other hand prevents the possible future alliances, which would contribute in restoring the two thousand European bed history dream.
"The Deconstruction of Some Myths in the Albanian Discourse Concerning the Conception of the European Idea"

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Abstract

This essay is a descriptive analysis as well as a polemic associated with the theoretical and practical efforts for the making of the European cultural identity, and the notion of Europe itself as axiological-political discourse. That will be unveiled early philosophical criticism against the very idea of Europe as a atomistic concept by placing anti-thesis to the construction of a relativistic and critical discourse. Initiatives analyzed in this project most of the ideas that have served on this goal in the scholarly discourse of prominent Albanians axis starting from the topological and geographical, linguistic and religious to the political-cultural plane. In all this efforts are required to excel, initially, epistemological criteria, ontological and methodological used by these researchers and to citizen later, through a technical implementation of deconstruction method. More specifically, first going to analyze the problems and differences that appear in essentialist conception of the idea of Europe on religious identity, cultural and political one. Then I will explain the mode of origin and enforcement of this elevated discourse in the form of several myths by deconstruction criticism because of the loss of historical reality and relative character that they exhibit in certain situations. While the
epistemological level will appear inadequacies and problems that arise in the conception of Europe as contractual political organization through a pre-political and tribal discourse. The main focus of these criticism will be a series of Albanian intellectuals, whose ideas will be analyzed through deconstructive approach of Jacques Derrida and the perception of identity through the thought of Edgar Morin.
"Multiculturalism and Diversity: Multinational and Multi-ethnic States in Balkans"

Mandeta Minxhozi
University of Tirana, Albania

Abstract

The trend of global diversity, the trend of a country's diversity and diversity in the workplace represents both opportunities and challenges for individuals and organizations on a global level. With the aim to develop these opportunities, individuals and organizations to focus on diversity should rise to the challenge of serving as leaders and build intercultural communications globally. The term diversity refers to a broad spectrum of human variation. Diversity is "other" or those human qualities that are different from ourselves and outside groups who belong to, be present in other Many states today have cultural diversity. Under the new provisions of 184 independent states contain 600 and 5000 groups living ethnic groups; Kymlicka.W. In few places can say that citizens have the same language or belonging to the same ethnic group. This diversity raises important questions. Minorities and the majority have collision on issues such as the right language for example, regional autonomy, political representation, education curriculum, rights over land, the issue of immigration, national symbols such as the choice of national emblem or official holidays etc. Finding the right answers to these moral and political issues is one of the greatest challenges of Europe and the Balkans. The aim is to present a general picture to identify some key concepts and principles that should be considered to overcome obstacles to a human rights approach.
"Borders in the Balkans as a Metaphor for War and Peace"

Kadri Metaj
University of Pristina, Kosovo

Kushtrim Ahmeti
State University of Tetovo, Macedonia

Abstract

It is not randomly said that the Balkans are a place with a lot of history and very little geography. The history here is a history of occupations, social tragedies of suffering, but also a history of surviving drama and achieving freedom.

Can Fukuyama’s thesis on the end of History be applied on the Balkans, in the context of a new world’s order, announced with the fall of the Berlin Wall in the beginning of this decade and with NATO’s intervention in Kosovo? The fall of the Berlin Wall was indeed an event to open a new chapter in the newest history of Europe’s politics. Communist dictatorships fell one after another, but these of the Balkans resisted for another ten years and still to this day continue causing suffering and tragedies. In the nineties, there was an illusion as if in the Balkans a new stream began to flow; the Former Yugoslavia began to disintegrate, it seemed that the borders got liberalized, but this enthusiasm got replaced by despair, war came instead of peace, the phantom of ethnic cleansing came instead of interculturalism and the world was found facing a new fascism which appeared just before the doors of Europe to continue the work left undone. The borders reappeared again and multiplied throughout the Balkans. We might think that the borders are our fate or to better say our misfortune.
"Balkan Electronic Media between Multiculturalism and Ethnocentrism"

Misho Netkovski
Journalist (MTV), Visiting Professor in ESRA

Abstract

The Balkans are an interesting and quite divergent environment where all laws and rules are broken, respected and denied, and where, unfortunately, undefined and undetermined winds blow. From denial to recognition—remarkably complex multiethnic environment for scientific research from all aspects. On the other hand, if we consider the fact that the media, especially TV turned the world into a global village, it means that it has extremely strong influence and power and could treat many problems in a multicultural society in progressive, democratic, civilized way and have a progressive approach, thus building highly developed democratic procedures and values and in that context developed, quality, tolerant relations in the sphere of ethnic relations and vice versa. So, the electronic media put into position as promoters of multiculturalism or its complete negation is the topic for which the author through his scientific media aspect will try to give a scientific interpretation.
"Continual Positive Approach in Respect to the Cultural Diversity and Separations, Culture Diversity Value in the Balkans: Communalities and Separations"

Rozeta Bici
University Aleksander Xhuvani, Albania

Abstract

This article is the result of research about cultural diversity in the Balkans focusing on some of the concerns of cultural diversity after the Balkan wars. In order to have a clear view of the issue, the paper starts with a short historical overview of the Balkans’ history and geographical position. Subsequently, it is followed by the definition of cultural diversity which sheds light on the components of culture where each of them will be analyzed separately, as well as, there will be observed the way or form they appear in each of the Balkan countries after the Balkan Wars. Consequently, some of the issues that will be elaborated in this paper are: diversity in ethnicity, language, religion, social background, nationality, multiculturalism and mentality. These topics will be taken into account, compared and contrasted between the Balkan countries to realize the way they are perceived by each country and the way their citizens behaved towards each of them. The paper aims at sorting out the communalities and the differences of these nations in relation to culture diversity in the Balkans. Additionally, the paper will explore the attitude of the citizens even towards the historical disputable issues, such as the boundaries between each other, as well as the attempts to control the ethnic conflicts within multiethnic countries in the Balkans. To sum up, it needs to be stressed the fact that, the common historical background of the Balkan countries has shaped a similar identity in the Balkans, despite the country they belong to. This is very well reflected in the cultural diversity and its components’ perception by the Balkans.
"THE BALKAN YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW"

Day 2 - 30\textsuperscript{th} of June
 SESSION I
 Chairman: Ali PAJAZITI

"The Status of Topography in the Balkans"

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University of Prishtina, Kosovo

Abstract

The Balkan region represents, with its history and linguistics, (which is one of its most important components) a great and manifold richness of south-eastern Europe. Before studying its microstructure it is the problem of the inventory of topography and its consequences which is represented by its very name: the Illyrian Peninsula, the Hellenic Peninsula, Rumelia, the Balkan Peninsula, South-Eastern Europe, and recently a new tendency for its separation by calling a part of it the Western Balkan, where the Albanian ethno-linguistic and cultural realm is a part. The space included in our research is characterized by a rich and deep cultural and linguistic tradition: the pre-Indo-European heritage (the Pelazgians), the Indo-European families heritage (the Hellene, the Illyrians, the Thracian, the Slavs), a rich stratification of cultures appeared more than anywhere in the “pelagian” topography of Illyrians, Greeks, Romans, Sases, Albanians, Slavic (mainly Serbian and Bulgarian), Roma, Turkish, etc., as well as a common linguistic realm called more than once with the Syntegra Balkan Linguistics.

Today in the world it is very rare to find such numerous and deep cultural stratifications within one unique geographical integral such as in the Balkan. It is very difficult to find such a
small space which has accepted and radiated such a rich culture in Europe, Asia and elsewhere. Topography has marked deep and rich traces in this radiation. It reflects the most secure signs of the historical developments not only for the Balkan realm, but also for the linguistic, historic and cultural realm of Europe and Asia. But in the Balkans, as nowhere else, topography more than once has been the sign of recycling the old myths and new ethnic conflicts. As if the rich and sometimes dark heritage for what regards the descent was not enough, the Balkan topography in the recent centuries continues to be convoluted with contemporary strata of myths.

**References:** Topography, Balkans, Illyrians, Greeks, Romans, Sases, Albanians, Slavic, Roma, Balkan Linguistics.
"History and Myths, an Object of Conflict in Literature"

Elvira Lumi
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Rudina Mita
University Aleksander Xhuvani, Albania

Abstract

In principle the object of this study is not mythology, but literature and history. Critics (Pierre Albui, Northrop Fraj) gives us two different notions of the word myth: a. 'Myth' that kept him in religious ritual and 'literary myth' provided by 'the story that encompasses history' and that 'the author addresses and modifies with a great freedom. In the Albanian literature historical myths as Scanderbeg myth, the myth of homeland, language myth, the myth of the beautiful woman, Pelasgian myth stemming from the history of the history of other Balkan nations or peoples of Europe. There are the humanist writers, Catholics North and Latin romantics through or Albanian, through "literalized stories " will make known the Albanian history not only aiming at explaining the Albanian readers to touch their national awareness and their spiritual formation but also induce the public about the existence of a European identity in the Balkans. Myths and history are often a source of conflict in literature. Frang Bardhi wrote in 1636 a biography (Apology) of Gergj Kastrioti to explain the Albanian origin of the hero contrary to the Slavic historiography which defined him Skanderbeg of Slavic origins. It is the patriotic feeling and the historic truth that inspires Bardhi to undertake the duty to protect the image of national hero. Besides so many notorious historians that bring as arguments in defense of his thesis entitled, Bardhi as a collector and connoisseur of popular oral tradition, to prove the Albanian origin of Skanderbeg, with rare skills uses traditions and the fact
that the name of Scanderbeg and his memory are alive in the consciousness of the people in his songs and stories. "Constantly up to nowadays, - writes the author, - our contemporaries to speak and sing out loud his bravery in the feast ... and call our Scanderbed "the dragon of Arber ", ie. Dragon Arber Epirus . And whenever he uttered these words, it is understood only Skanderbeg ". About the figure of Skanderbeg strong writing pens as Barleti Bardhi, De Rada, Naim, Noli's up to Sabri Godo, Kristo Frashëri and Aurel Plasari of our days have written, where it combines historical and mythical the literary, journalism with the scientific, the real narration. Discussions on this figure have not stopped even in our days as the one lead by the Austrian Oliver Schmidt who demythizes the figure of Skanderbeg and presents him as a complex and problematic figure in the Balkans. In literature the myth of homeland and language form historical conflicts arising from conditions during the Turkish invasion, ethnic conflicts and relationships between peoples in the classical Balkan poets. The romantics and the classic Albanian writers cannot understand their artistic work without the cult of the fatherland and the cult of language. The link to the country and language identity is evidence of the existence of the Albanian nation in the Balkans.
In its natural and geographic boundaries Macedonia has always represented the strategic heart of the Balkans, a natural geographical center of the Balkan countries. This extremely important geopolitical position, the numerous climatic-pedagogical advantages, enormous natural resources and the existing population mass, best explains the fact why the Macedonian territory for centuries was unusually attractive to major powers and neighboring countries, whose megalomaniac conquest tendencies and aspirations of physical occupation and division of Macedonia were in direct contradiction with the natural and primal desire of the Macedonian people for national and social liberation. But unlike the Albanian and other neighboring people the Macedonian nation in the developments of the Balkan conflicts was deprived of its basic national, political and human values and rights. Due to all these reasons, today the Republic of Macedonia, despite being an independent state, is neither on earth nor in heaven.
"Political Changes in Balkan after the Cold War"

Jonuz Abdullai
South East European University, Macedonia

Abstract

In this research paper we will present geo-political environment in central and southeastern Europe with special emphasis at her reflection in the Western Balkans during the disintegration of the communist system and the formation of new states. Cold war period will be analyzed using causal scheme which means cause-effect analysis, focusing on the role of states called so world super power such as USA and ex Soviet states. This period is known as a phase of environmental competition of armament which transferred the Balkans into “tinderbox”. As well in an analytical manner also will be in investigated the period of political changes and the appearance of the new Political-military subjects, the formation of a pluralistic environment in the region, by which starts a new process on removing the “shield” after the fall of the Berlin war. In this research paper also will be defined the role of NGO, in promoting a new future on Balkan states. The role of political elites takes an important place in creation a political environment followed by many challenges, hopes, disappointments and surprises for the citizens. The conflicts and war will be treated as a whole, because they have been a contentious accompanying during and after the cold war. The process of politic making is always actual that’s way it arouses a special interest for me and for another researchers, the manner and participation of the citizen on the political life as an active actor in creation of a functional democratic environment on the multinational countries on the Western Balkans. In this summary a special attention will be given to disclosure of documents and the testimony of destruction and building of new countries from the ruins of ex
Yugoslavia emphasizing the role of international community. Also we are going to present the activities and relevant measures that have been taken from United Nations and European Union for prevention of regional conflicts, also their role on securing peace in post-conflict period. The main focus on this research paper is ensuring the permanent peace of Emanuel Kant which guarantees welfare for all of us, by respecting freedoms and the human rights in contemporary society.

**Key words:** Changes, war, peace, Balkans, democracy, politic, communist system, pluralism etc.
SESSION 2
Chairman: Taulant HODAJ

"The Problem of Scientific of Construction of History and its Mutual Acceptance as an Essential Element in the Process of Building Bridges of Cooperation and Integration of the Peoples of the Region"

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Abstract

This theme aims to stop at an analysis in two plans that move from scientific knowledge to public acceptance of scientific results in the field of history. First, based on the best achievements of philosophical thought about history, topics will be fulfilled, analyzing how to build scientific knowledge of history, what are the difficulties that accompany the historian to historical knowledge, in what consists of a scientific knowledge of history and what are the mistakes that historians should avoid. In the light of modern philosophical view, what shall we mean by "objectivity" in history? Secondly, the theme aims to highlight the need for recognition, mutual acceptance, open and public of political entities of scientific results in history. Both these phases are a basic element of a real and sustainable transformation of the current situation in the region towards a peaceful coexistence. Balkans yesterday, was the Balkans of wars, violence and robbery of peoples from one -another under the promotion of the interests of larger powers. Balkans is the country's sovereign peoples, who strive to live in national or multiethnic states, building rule of law and society led by the freedoms and human rights. Balkans tomorrow ... dream of the
peoples of the region is to address the injustices that were done in the past due accounts in the interests of great powers, achieving openness, cooperation and integration of social life in the region, further EU membership. Theme seeks to highlight that the future can not be built by denying and ignoring the problems associated with the historical past, either by hiding behind the political slogans of integration, some worse by promoting hostilities with each other. Building the future is the question of scientific action, as well as common political action.
"Similarities of Trajectories of Interests of the World Powers in the Past and Now"
(Proposals of Berthold for Decentralization of the Ottoman Empire in 1912, Ohrid Framework Agreement and the Proposals of Ahtisaari in 2003)

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Abstract

The processes of Balkan wars seems like they follow one type of trajectory of thinking and acting as nowadays also in the beginning of the 1900. While may focus on specificities of the conflicting past, this research recognizes similarities among three processes: In 1912 the proposals of Count Berthold from Austro-Hungarian Empire, for decentralization of the Ottoman empire, The Ohrid framework Agreement in 2001, and the proposals of Ahtisaari in 2007. In their substance all proposals hold the element of decentralization as one way to enhance human rights and freedoms under particular political system, in order to avoid violent conflicts and wars as option. In its background, this research will analyze the international legal instruments that take care for peace and stability as well as ways how the interests of the world powers are knitted at the times the wars are challenging this legal instruments. The methodology of this research is based ways for balancing legal and historical information from the past. For this purpose there will be done a comparative analyses of the proposals of Berthold for
decentralization during the Ottoman Empire, Ahtisaari during the period of independence of Kosovo and the Ohrid framework agreement with proposals of Leotard and Perdew during the processes of stabilization of the violent conflict in Macedonia. For this purpose will be used a legal literature, historical as well as newspaper articles and analyses from Bulgaria, Serbia and Russia during 1912. Diplomatic notes of the embassies in Skopje from the period from 1910 up to 1914 will also be analyzed.
"Comparison of the Albanian and Balkan folk works with initiation"

Vera Stojcevska Antic
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Abstract

The original intent of this broader study was comparative analysis of perceived Albanian folklore gathered by Kuzman Sapkarev, with Macedonian counterparts. Having in mind the breadth of this topic, and because of the limited space in this case, I opted for counterparts in other neighboring nations, associated with metamorphosis and initiation. Understandably I hindered a few examples: ‘An old man and an old woman’, ‘An orphan’, The sister of Hasan Aga transformed into a cuckoo’, etc.
The term “Balkans” or “Balkanization” is often used in the context of fragmentation, ethnic conflict and instability. Therefore, this region faces one of the biggest challenges of his history, 'un-balkanization', to rise upon ethnic conflicts and struggles for power. In this way, Balkan countries can contribute for stability, promoting the spirit of cooperation and tolerance. Historically, the Balkan region has been a melting pot of various ethnicities and religions. More importantly, it has been plagued by a very turbulent history, from its Ottoman past, Balkan and civil wars, ethnic cleansing, and ethnic conflicts. The complex and obscure Balkan Wars of 1912-13 represents the beginning of an era in European history dominated by nationalism and conflict. These wars were the first concerted effort by the Balkan peoples to establish large nationalist states. Because of overlapping rivalries and claims, the nationalist appetites of the post-Balkan War states were not sated. The end of the Cold War and the disintegration of Yugoslavia restored violent ethnic and religious conflicts in this peninsula. Because of the strong nationalistic identities, ingrained authoritarian regimes, prevalent corruption, and economic backwardness, European integration and progression is a struggle for this region. European Integration of the Balkans and specifically the Western Balkans is one of the biggest challenges and one of the greatest national interests of each of the countries in this region. The European perspective is regarded as a guarantee for this region to smooth conflicts and consolidate peace and cooperation. Therefore it is important to
represent the transformation of Balkan states within the European integration, as well as to analyze the challenges facing this region on the path to membership in the European family.

**Key words:** Western Balkans, European integration, stability, conflict, cooperation.
SESSION 3  
Chairman: Pishtar LUTFIU

"The Role of International Missions during the Conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina"

Isak Sherifi  
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Abstract

Difficult situations in the territories of the former Yugoslavia called for the intervention of international missions. After the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina on October 11, 1995 was necessary monitoring of a ceasefire that will last up to stabilization of the situation in this region. This monitoring was carried out by the Defense Forces of United Nations- UNPROFOR. Also an important role in maintaining peace in this Republic will have the SFOR-Stabilization Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUPM European Union Police Mission, -UNMIBH United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE, the Organization for Security and European cooperation, and many other organizations. All these missions will affect the stabilization of the situation by insuring of the population, providing food aid to the population, medical aid and creating conditions for the population that were away from these sites. These missions will extend their activities to establish the rule of law on the state that will guarantee the protection of fundamental human rights.
"The Situation of the Albanian in Preshevo Valley"

Veton Zejnullahi  
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Abstract

The Situation of Albanians living in Serbia, especially in the three municipalities bordering Kosovo i.e. Preshevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja which collectively are known as the Preshevo Valley Region, continues to remain the same even after the Kosovo war and the war which took place in this region between Serbian government forces and the Albanian fighters of UÇPMB. The demographic composition, geographic location and economic underdevelopment of the region have made it out to be not stable, which are specifically broken political circumstances, security and the like in Serbia, in Kosovo and in the wider region. The strategic importance of the Preshevo Valley is in the fact that it lies in the triangle between Kosovo, Serbia and Macedonia and through its territory passes the highway and railroad with national and international importance such as E-10 corridor as a capital project for Preshevo Valley and the whole region, to what makes the region more attractive to potential investments in the future. Bearing in mind that in this region most of the population are Albanian, the topic of study will be exactly the situation in which this population is and the challenges it faces in daily life and who face problems ranked from the most elementary such as: education, information, health, use of native language and national symbols and many other problems. The Region since the remote past is always characterized by tension depending on the circumstances which had historical ebb and flow of their escalated to armed conflict as it happened during World War II when the warriors of this area contributed mostly to fight against fascism and the Nazis, but also in the latter case when the fight took place between Serbian government forces and ethnic
Albanian organized around UÇPMB (Liberation Army of Presheva, Medvegja and Bujanovc). The war of UÇPMB raised the issue of this region to the world’s most important chancelleries and to the most powerful international bodies like the UN, NATO and the EU.

This was achieved by the full internationalization of the region because the messengers of leaders from these chancelleries began to come to this region and deal directly with the issue of the Preshevo Valley and reaching a peace agreement known as the "Konçul’s Agreement", this agreement was never implemented due to the refusal of the Serbian side. But even though the peace agreement is reached the situation after 10 years remains the same and Albanians still face with similar problems, to these problems was added also the phenomenon of mass migration of population as in Kosovo and Western Europe as well, that took off especially after the liberalization of visa regime that EU decided to Serbia.

**Key words:** Preshevo Valley, War, E-10 corridor, Konçul’s Agreement, Internationalization.
"Challenges of the Balkans during the Centuries"

Dervish Alimi
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Abstract

The elementary principles of western democracies have paved the way for economic and scientific development in all the nations in the World. The principles of Rule of Law, the principle that all are equal in front of the Law, and the Law is above all, no matter if it’s about an individual or a nation. The freedom to express the opinion and the political will, the freedom of free movement, to practice the religion, as well as the mother tongue and culture, is the same for all no matter where they are, and neither is entitled to more than the other. The freedom for free competition and for the free commercial and economic trade is the primer of the world economies. These principles are invented by great and visionary persons and are accepted by all, as modus vivendi, and they are to be established without deviations in the practice. Today all the Western Nations believe in these principles and democratic values, therefore they don’t mind if emigrants from distant countries and of different nations and religions are settled and they are allowed to be integrated, enough that they embrace these values, as it happens with Algerians and Tunisians in France, or with Turkish in Germany, or why not with our Albanian compatriots in Switzerland and elsewhere. Nevertheless this route cannot find its path here in the Balkans. This occurs partially because of the unsolved national issues and their internal frontiers, but also because of the lack of will of the political despots who are very well aware of the legal responsibilities that go together with the privileges, as well as of the fact that in Europe is no place for the violation of media and for the indirect frightening of intellectuals, that the worker is there entitled with the right to work and to earn a
decent salary, and the power is not something you can have forever, which means Election fraud, as well the violation of the will of the sovereign, cannot be tolerated at all. Here lies the perspective of all the nations in the Balkans, who eventually cannot prevail each other, neither by number of inhabitants, nor by their ‘genetic’ capacities, because once they enter the European family they will have to be guided by the universal human rights recognized all over the world.
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