

Fall 23: **Western Balkans: Imperial Legacies, Nation-Building, State (Dis)integration**

Southeastern peninsula of the European continent, more recognizable under its loaded term *the Balkans*, is a region of stunning ethnoreligious diversity and rich history. Traditionally at the crossroads of imperial influences, this space was and remains a region of competing political projects. Throughout the 20th century, the pendulum between centrifugal and centripetal tendencies was expressed in violent collision between different (trans)national projects. The Balkans remain somewhat of a borderland in the 21st century, with a significant part of peninsula lingering in the EU antechambers. Unfinished character of integration, alongside with incomplete modernization, produced a number of challenges in the region, whose past and present is in the focus of this course.

Teaching team: Vladimir Petrović and Aleksandar Pavlović (course leaders), Olesia Marković (coordinator), Ruslana Koziienko Lucija Balikić, Katarina Beširević, Semir Džebo, Elvira Ibragimova, Jelena Jovanović, Dana McKelvey (mentors)

**Intro Lecture:** Where are the Balkans and why are they the way they are? (Andrew Wachtel or Mark Mazower)

Suggested reading: Božidar Jezernik, Europe and its Other (i.e. The Balkans), *Perifèria*

Number 6, June 2007 <https://revistes.uab.cat/periferia/article/view/v6-n1-jezernik/170-pdf-es>

**Module 1:** **Imperial Legacies**: **Balkans among Imperial Borderlands**

**Lecture 1** Imperial brekadown, great powers and the Balkans (Xavier Bougarel, Slobodan Marković)

**Lecture 2** Church(es) and Nationalism(s) in the Balkans, (Vladimir Cvetković & Ivan Ejub Kostić, discussants Maria Falina, Edin Omerčić)

**Lecture 3** Is there Balkan culture and how far it travels? (Alla Tatarenko)

Suggested reading: John R. Lampe, Balkans into Southeastern Europe, Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke, New York, 2014, 260-308; Andrew Wachtel, The Balkans in World History ; 2008 Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press., 103-125 Mark Mazower, The Balkans: A Short History. New York, Random House 2000, 182-220

**Module 2: Nation Building and Balkan Ethnic Mozaic**

**Lecture 1**: Balkan Ethnic Mozaic: Creating and Managing Majorities&Minorities, (Emily Greble)

Reading: Emily Greble, *Muslims and the Making of Modern Europe*, Oxford University Press 2021.

**Lecture 2**: National and Supranational Experiments in the Balkans (Tomaž Ivešić)

Suggested reading: Hannes Grandits, Ulf Brunnbauer, The Ambiguous Nation. Socialist and Nation-Building in Southeastern Europe in Perspective, in Ulf Brunnbauer und Hannes Grandits The ambiguous nation : case studies from Southeastern Europe in the 20th century, München : Oldenbourg, 2013, 9-42

**Lecture 3**: Language and Minority policy and ideology in the Western Balkans (Marija Mandić,

& Krisztina Ratz; discussant: Andrij Lubka)

Suggested reading: Bugarski, R. (2004) Overview of the Linguistic Aspects of the Disintegration of Former Yugoslavia. In: Bugarski, R., Hawkesworth, C. (eds.) Language in the Former Yugoslav Lands. Bloomington: Slavica Publishers, 3-11.

**Lecture 4**: (Re)shaping the Macedonian Nation: from Independence to the Ohrid Framework Agreement and from the Prespa Agreement onwards (Ivan Dodovski, discussant Romina Begaj)

**Module 3: Yugoslavia as a Balkan Laboratory of State (Dis)integration (Vladimir Petrovic)**

**Lecture 1**: From Peace to War in Yugoslavia(with Stevo Đurašković)

Vesna Pešić, The War for Ethnic States, in Nebojša Popov (ed.), The Road to War in Serbia, Trauma and Catharsis, Budapest: Central University Press, 2000, 9-49

Suggested: Dejan Jović, The Disintegration of Yugoslavia: A Critical Review of Explanatory Approaches, European Journal of Social Theory February 2001/4: 101-120,

The Death of Yugoslavia, BBC 1995: Enter Nationalism, Road to War, Wars of Independence

Yugoslav Spiral of Violence 1991 <https://devedesete.vip/en/?pismo=lat>

**Lecture 2**: Wartime in the former Yugoslavia, (with Laura Silber)

Marie-Janine Calic, Ethnic Cleansing and War Crimes 1991-1995, in Charles Ingrao, Thomas A.Emmert, Confronting the Yugoslav controversies : a scholars' initiative, West Lafayette. Indiana : Purdue University Press, 114-153

Suggested: Vladimir Petrović, Becoming Inevitable: Yugoslav Descent to War Revisited, in Predrag J. Marković, Bojan B. Dimitrijević, Repeating History 1941-1991? Belgrade: Institute for Contemporary History 2022, 103-127. CIA, Balkan Battlegrounds: A Military History of the Yugoslav Conflict; The Death of Yugoslavia: Gates of Hell, Safe Area and Pax Americana

**Lecture 3:** From War to Peace in the Western Balkans (with Dejan Jović)

Dejan Jović (2022) Post-Yugoslav States Thirty Years after 1991: Unfinished Businesses of a Fivefold Transition, Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies, 24:2, 193-222

Suggested: International Crisis Group, [Managing the Risks of Instability in the Western Balkan](https://www.crisisgroup.org/europe-central-asia/balkans/managing-risks-instability-western-balkans) [The Secret U.S. Diplomacy and the Bosnia Peace Process 1995 History of Dayton](https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB171/index.htm):

Concluding Lecture

Accompanying program: Cinema Balkan

(Suggested screenings with in-class discussions):

*The Death of Yugoslavia*, BBC 1995

*Before the Rain* (Прет Дождот, dir. Milcho Manchevski, Macedonia, 1994)

*The Border Post* (Karaula, dir. Rajko Grlic, 2006)

*The Wounds* (*Rane*, dir. Srdjan Dragojevic, Serbia, 1998)

*Honeymoons* (Medeni mesec/Muaj mjali, dir. Srdjan Paskaljevic, Serbia/Albania, 2009)