

Zitierhinweis

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Bibliographien, Nachschlagewerke, Zeitschriften

Ante CUVALO, *Historical Dictionary of Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Lanham, Toronto, Plymouth: The Scarecrow Press Inc., 2. Aufl., 2007. CXVI, 385 S., ISBN 978-0-8108-5084-2, US-\$ 108,90

Historical dictionaries are tricky things to write and produce. They require serious, broad expertise in their subject matter as well as a fine editorial sense for structure and accessibility, and must make some attempt at comprehensiveness. The work under consideration scores very well on the first of these counts, moderately well on the second and somewhat less well on the third. Ante Cuvalo's "Historical dictionary of Bosnia and Herzegovina" is a serious piece of work by a scholar who knows his subject matter. It comprises a useful tool for both a specialist in, and a beginner to the study of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Yet there are some flaws in its structure and omissions in its content.

In addition to the dictionary section itself, consisting of an alphabetised list of summaries of the principal individuals, places, states, parties, events and other topics relevant to Bosnian history, the book includes a historical chronology and introduction; a set of historical maps; and a bibliography of books on Bosnian history, weighted in favour of English-language works. The summaries are generally of a high quality, and even the expert on Bosnian history will likely be able to glean useful information from them.

If Cuvalo errs as a scholar of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is in a tendency to view Bosnian history primarily as part of a larger Yugoslav or former-Yugoslav whole, rather than viewing the country primarily in its own right. Thus, for example, his introductory chronology lists various events relevant to Yugoslav history that are not directly related to Bosnia, but ignores equivalent Bosnia-specific events. He includes the start of Partisan resistance to the Axis occupiers in Croatia, but not in Bosnia. He includes the promulgation of a Yugoslav constitution in 1946, but not the promulgation of a Bosnian constitution later that year. There is no reference anywhere in the work to the formal establishment of Bosnian statehood in 1944 – an event about which the English-speaking world knows little, but which is absolutely crucial for understanding modern Bosnian history.

The all-Yugoslav rather than Bosnian emphasis is also reflected in Cuvalo's choice of items for the dictionary itself. He quite rightly includes entries for non-Bosnians who had a significant influence on Bosnian history, such as Croatian President Franjo Tuđman and Serbian President Slobodan Milošević, as well as Western and other international statesmen. Yet there are some surprising omissions of key historical figures who are less well known to non-specialists; among them Milan Srškić, arguably the most important Bosnian politician of the interwar period; Avdo Humo, Osman Karabegović and Hasan Brkić, the three most senior Muslim Communists in the Partisan movement and the first two decades of Titoist Yugoslavia; and Huška Miljković, the legendary World War II Muslim militia leader of north-west Bosnia. This may in part reflect the author's appreciation of what the average non-specialist reader might want to know about, but from the point of view of a historian of Bosnia, they render the dictionary somewhat incomplete.

The difficulty of achieving a reasonable approximation of comprehensiveness is, indeed, what makes a work of this kind so difficult to write. Some omissions cannot be explained

except by the fact that the author forgot to include the items in question. There is no entry for Sefer Halilović or Rasim Delić, the two most important Bosnian military commanders of the 1990s war. There is an entry for Keraterm concentration camp, but not for the larger Omarska or the more notorious Trnopolje. There are entries for the principal political parties of the Muslims and Croats in the interwar period, but not for their Serb counterparts – the People's Radical Party and the League of Farmers.

None of this detracts from the fact that if the reader should find an entry for what interests them in the dictionary, they are likely to be satisfied; the cup can be viewed as four-fifths full or as one-fifth empty, but the wine is a good one. To give an indication of the range: there are entries for "Economy", "Health", "Judaism in Bosnia and Herzegovina", "Ottoman Empire", "Territorial Defence", "War casualties (1991-1995)" and many others. The choice of entries covers both Bosnian historical, literary and cultural figures of which the non-specialist is unlikely to know, as well as broader or topical entries that provide a useful introduction to the themes they discuss. The dictionary thus effectively spans the specialist and non-specialist audiences, and is useful for both.

The structure is a good one, rendering the book accessible and convenient as a reference work. The one exception is the bibliographical section; the list of books is divided up into rather too many categories, so that individual books are not always where one would expect to find them, and sometimes need to be hunted around for; some duplication of entries would have helped. One final criticism: the maps are not very good.

In sum, Cuvalo's historical dictionary is to be highly recommended; its flaws are of a kind that could and should be easily rectified in a future edition.

London

Marko Attila Hoare

Leksikon gradova i trgova srednjovekovnih srpskih zemalja prema pisanim izvorima

[Lexikon der Städte und Märkte im mittelalterlichen Serbien nach schriftlichen Quellen].

Hg. Siniša Mišić. Beograd: Zavod za udžbenike 2010. 362 S., ISBN 978-86-17-16604-3

Die serbische Mediävistik legt mit dem vorliegenden Band ein wichtiges Nachschlagewerk zu Städten und Märkten im mittelalterlichen Westbalkan vor. Unter „serbischen Ländern“ werden dabei jene Gebiete verstanden, die zur Zeit König Milutins (1282-1321) der serbischen Krone unterstanden. Eingeschlossen in diesen serbischen Geschichtsraum wird auch Bosnien in jenem Umfang, den es unter der Herrschaft des Bans Stjepan II. Kotromanić (1322-1353) besaß. Räumlich deckt der Band die heutigen Staaten (bzw. Teile der Staatsgebiete) Serbien (ohne die Vojvodina), Kosovo, Nordmakedonien, Nordalbanien, Montenegro sowie Bosnien-Herzegowina ab. Das seit Konstantin Jireček oftmals stillschweigend auch einer serbischen Geschichte zugeschlagene Dubrovnik hingegen bleibt außerhalb des Bandes. Sieht man von diesen stets heiklen Fragen der Abgrenzung ab, auf die hier im Weiteren nicht kritisch eingegangen werden soll, ist ein für die Forschung wertvoller Band anzuzeigen. Da das Vorhaben der „Tabula Imperii Byzantini“ der Österreichischen