



CAOCL - Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning

Regional, Culture, and Language Familiarization - RCLF



Suggested Readings

THE BALKANS

History

Mark Mazower, *The Balkans: A Short History* (Random House Publishing Group, 2000), 180 pages.

This short book will provide the Marine with a sweeping overview of 1,000 years of history of the Balkans, including the region's states, ethnic groups, conflicts and wars. The book will also provide the historical context for the most recent violent conflicts and the region's difficult transition from communism to democracy. It will provide information on the foreign involvement in the region, which, in the author's view had largely caused the wars in the last hundred years. Mazower uses quotations from travelers, diplomats and historians to create vivid images of the region's history. He also provides plenty of historical data and analysis which will help the Marine begin to understand the foundations of the five dimensions of operational culture relevant to the Balkans.

Robert Kaplan, *Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* (St. Martin's Press, 1993), 307 pages.

This text will provide the Marine with information to identify broad regional trends, historical context and culture characteristics as well as the extent of foreign involvement and interests in the Balkans. This source will also provide information on the potential impact of American culture on the region. This text will also provide data to support the comparison of five dimensions of operational culture in the nations of the micro-region. Kaplan's seminal work that is a combination travel guide, historical analysis and political commentary affords the Marine with ample data on the historical narrative of the region.

William T. Johnsen, *Deciphering the Balkan Enigma: Using History to Inform Policy* (Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, 1993), 97 pages.

This short study was written for the purpose of assisting American policy-makers in making informed decisions in the wake of the wars of disintegration of Yugoslavia. The text will provide the Marine with concise information to identify the most significant historical developments from the region's past which define the current major region-wide trends. The study identifies cultural cleavages within the Balkans and between the Balkans and the U.S. leaders which complicates the resolution of conflicts in the region and the success of American involvement.

Dennis P. Hupchick and Harold E. Cox, *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of Eastern Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2001).

The book, including 52 color maps, will provide the Marine with information on 1,400 years of Balkan history including its people and the changing political boundaries of the states in the region. It also includes contextual maps of resources and basic geography. The book charts in maps the influx of people and different groups into the region, the domination of groups over



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others, the shifting boundaries of states and empires. The maps will provide the Marine with understanding of why ethnic and national groups in the Balkans have conflicting territorial claims and how each group uses history to justify its claims. The book is an excellent companion to history texts about the region.

R. J. Crampton, *The Balkans since the Second World War* (Pearson Education, 2002), 374 pages.

The book will provide the Marine with essential information on the history of the Balkan states since the end of the Second World War. It will also, very importantly, show how all Balkan people, except for the Bulgarians, contest the notion that they belong to the Balkans as they seek to define their identity as Mediterranean, or Muslim, or Central European, or Catholic, rather than “Balkan.” Thus, the Marine will understand why while all people in the Balkans share so many traits and experiences they have been rather hostile to each other. The book provides not only a review of the political history of the Balkan states but also insights into social trends. This sets the stage for a better understanding of the most recent history of the region, including the post-communist transition. The book is an excellent introduction to the political evolution of the region.

Barbara Jelavich, *History of the Balkans: Eighteen and Nineteenth Centuries* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1983).

This book provides a history of the Balkans in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Barbara Jelavich, *History of the Balkans: Twentieth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), 476 pages.

This book will provide the Marine with a wide-ranging history of the Balkans until the early 1980s. The author divides the narrative into two major parts: the period from 1880's, a time when Balkan national liberation movements culminated into Balkan national monarchies until 1941. The second part takes over from the World War II and continues until the 1980's. More specifically, the first part explores the emergence of the Balkan nationalist states, and the beginning of British, French, Russian, and Habsburg, as well as later the Italian and German involvement in the region. The second part of the book explores the imposition of Communist control and the emergence of the Soviet Union and the U.S. as the only two outside powers to have significant influence over the region. The Marine will also gain a deeper understanding of the Albanian and Macedonian questions which dominate the international politics of the Balkans to this day. The book also provides valuable insights into the nature of Balkan nationalisms.

Joseph Rotschild and Nancy M. Wingfield, *Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe since World War II* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2000).

This book provides a history of communist rule in the Balkans.

Robert D. Kaplan, *Eastward to Tartary: Travels in the Balkans, the Middle East, and the Caucasus* (Random House, 2000), 364 pages.

This book, written in the traditional travel literature genre, is touted as the sequel to Kaplan's *Balkan Ghosts*. Although the book includes travel impressions not only from the Balkans but also from the Middle East, and the Caucasus, it provides a good context which



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compares the Balkans to other regions with which the Marine might be familiar. The author mixes details from daily life with assertions about historical legacies which still shape national culture in these countries. The author sees fault cultural lines separating the East, with its Orthodox Christian and Islamic cultures from the Western European cultures dominated by Catholicism, Reformation, and the Enlightenment. The book also explores how the breakup of the Ottoman Empire and later the Soviet Union shattered the multinational cultures of the region and ultimately led to ethnic conflicts and civil wars.

The Cambridge Ancient History, Vol. 3, Part 1: The Prehistory of the Balkans, and the Middle East (1982).

This book provides a comprehensive overview of prehistory of the Balkans

Miscellaneous

Anderson, Perry. "After Kemal," *London Review of Books*, Vol. 30, No. 18 (25 September 2008): 13-22. Available at <http://www.lrb.co.uk/v30/n18/perry-anderson/after-kemal>

This article provides a review of the evolution of Turkish politics and society since the creation of the republic. This is a useful survey which not only includes important dates and events in Turkish history, but also identifies major processes and forces that capture the split personality of a nation straddling multiple cultures and influences.

Aydinli, Ersel. "A Pragmatic Shift for the Turkish Generals and an End to the Coup Era in Turkey," *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 63, No. 4 (Autumn 2009): 581-96.

The Turkish armed forces have long maintained a special role, providing not only defense against external threats, but also having special responsibility for maintaining domestic stability and upholding the secular nature of the state. This special role has prompted the military to intervene in domestic politics on numerous occasions, including through *coup d'état*. The democratization reforms in the last several years in Turkey have increasingly challenged this traditional military role. This article provides a Turkish perspective on the changing dynamics of civil-military relations.

Bechev, Dimitar. *The Periphery of the Periphery: The Western Balkans and the Euro Crisis* (European Council on Foreign Relations, 2013). Available from http://ecfr.eu/page/-/ECFR60_WESTERN_BALKANS_BRIEF_AW.pdf

This report analyzes the process of integration of the Western Balkan states in the European Union in the context of: 1) a growing reluctance on the part of the EU to accept new members; 2) the slow pace of political and economic reforms in the states seeking EU membership. However, the slow pace of integration, while convenient for both political elites in the EU and corruption-prone elites in the Balkans, may further undermine stability in the region and threaten security beyond its borders.

Bugajski, Janusz. *Return of the Balkans: Challenges to European Integration and U.S. Disengagement* (Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, May 2013). Available at <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB1153.pdf>



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This is a sweeping overview of the causes and consequences of multiple conflicts in the Western Balkans, specifically in the states that emerged after the disintegration of Yugoslavia. The paper places these conflicts in the context of Euro-Atlantic efforts to integrate the region in Western institutions, including the European Union and NATO, and to assist the states in addressing political, economic, and security challenges.

Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Hellenic Centre for European Studies. *Confronting Unconventional Threats in Southeast Europe* (Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 2010). Available at http://csis.org/files/publication/100430_CSIS-EKEM_PolicyReport2.pdf

The end of Communism and the ensuing violent disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s rendered parts of the Balkans especially vulnerable to organized crime, human trafficking, smuggling, and corruption. These challenges were facilitated by weak political and state institution, and the chaotic transition from planned economy to free market economy. The report surveys the unconventional threats facing the states that emerged after the disintegration of Yugoslavia, including corruption, legacies of Communist security services, human trafficking, drug trade, illicit trade of legal and stolen goods, illicit arms trade, illegal immigration, Islamic radicalism, and cyber warfare. The report also points out how international institutions assist states in the region in addressing these threats.

DiNardo, Richard L. "The German Military Mission to Romania, 1940-1941," *Joint Forces Quarterly*, Vol., 69, No. 2 (2013): 92-98. Available at <http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jfq/jfq-69.pdf>

At the beginning of the Second World War, Romania requested military assistance from Nazi Germany. Hitler sent a military mission to train and reorganize the Romania army. Based on archival materials, the article provides an interesting look at the experiences of German military personnel during the mission, including the logistical, linguistic, and cultural frictions arising from the interaction of two militaries.

International Crisis Group. *Turkey and Greece: Time to Settle the Aegean Dispute* (Brussels, Belgium: 19 July 2011). Available at <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/europe/turkey-cyprus/turkey/B64-%20Turkey%20and%20Greece-%20Time%20to%20Settle%20the%20Aegean%20Dispute.pdf>

This briefing provides a good overview of the political, security, and legal issues involved in the territorial and maritime dispute between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean Sea. The briefing also suggests ways to solve the dispute.

Linden, Ronald H. "The Burden of Belonging: Romanian and Bulgarian Foreign Policy in the New Era," *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (September 2009): 269-91.

This article surveys the changes in the foreign policy of Romania and Bulgaria following their accession to NATO and the European Union. After the end of Communism, Bulgaria and Romania faced a rapidly changing international environment and had no choice but to make radical changes their domestic and foreign policies. Although the two countries sought to join both the EU and NATO, their unique historical experiences resulted in distinct new foreign policies.



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Morton, Matthew D. "Three Hearts in the Chest of One State: The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina," *The Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (2012): 512-32.

The armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina are unique in the Balkans as it is composed of elements of three former warring ethnic groups – Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs. The viability of the armed forces is challenged not only by the legacies of the civil war, but also by the inability of the three ethnic groups, and their political elites, to overcome political and institutional fragmentation. Despite significant defense reforms, the effectiveness of the armed forces is ultimately dependent on the will of the three major ethnic groups to live together peacefully in one state. The failure of the state and political institutions to take roots and consolidate would inevitably lead to the conflict and the disintegration of the armed forces.

Opinion Research Project. *Current Attitudes Toward the Roma in Central Europe: A Report of Research with non-Roma and Roma Respondents* (Washington, DC: World Bank, September 2005). Available at

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/EXTROMA/0,,contentMDK:20749979~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:615987,00.html>

This report, utilizing the focus group method, provides a survey of the attitudes of ethnic Roma and non-Roma toward each other in Eastern Europe. The report includes data from Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia. The survey finds that both Roma and non-Roma hold negative attitudes of each other. Moreover, difficult economic and social circumstances have only increased the intensity of these attitudes. The prevailing perception of the non-Roma is that the Roma are responsible for their low social and economic status, and object to providing government assistance to improve their lot. On the other hand, Roma fear that economic difficulties will only increase prejudices against them.

Simic, Andrei. "Nationalism, Marxism, and Western Popular Culture in Yugoslavia: Ideologies, Genuine and Spurious," *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (2002): 135-44. Available at

<http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/aeer/article/view/463/569>

This article investigates how the people of former Yugoslavia navigated in everyday life the clash between the spreading Western popular culture, the resurgent nationalism, and the state-sanctioned, but eroding ideology of Marxism.

Simic, Andrei. "Serbia, Betwixt and Between: Culture, Politics and Images of the West," *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (2009): 88-98. Available at

<http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/aeer/article/view/269/345>

This article investigates the dilemmas the people of Serbia experience when pro-Western attitudes clash with affinity with the Eastern cultural traditions, particularly Eastern Orthodoxy and affinity with Russia. The authors find that there is no strong correlation between predilection for Western popular culture and anti-nationalist orientations – people can hold both positive attitudes toward all things Western, while also lacking tolerance for minorities or outsiders. People of Serbia consider themselves unique, straddling two distinct cultures.



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Watts, Larry L. "The Transformation of Romanian Civil-Military Relations: Enabling Force Projection," *European Security*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (March 2005): 95-114.

This article analyses Romania's efforts to reform the armed forces. It points out that, unlike other former Communist countries, Romania's domestic political order[?] provided a positive environment for coherent defense reform and constructive civil-military relations. Formulating its long-term strategic policy, Romania sought to create smaller, expeditionary, and professional military forces capable of responding to both conventional and non-conventional threats and risks.