



The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia (Yale Nota Bene)

Tim Judah

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This history of the Serbs opens with the medieval kings of Serbia and a battle lost six centuries ago that still profoundly influences the Serbs. It then describes the idea of Serbdom and examines the tenuous ethnic balance fashioned by Tito and its drastic unravelling after his death.

The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia (Yale Nota Bene) Details

Date : Published August 11th 2000 by Yale Nota Bene (first published March 27th 1997)

ISBN : 9780300085075

Author : Tim Judah

Format : Paperback 382 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Politics, Science, Geography



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From Reader Review The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia (Yale Nota Bene) for online ebook

Matt says

This book covers the history of the Serbs from their beginnings as an ethnic nation, up to the present day. Although the emphasis is clearly on the last 25 years.

The book does not dwell for too long on events that were well reported elsewhere. The two world wars and the Srebrenica massacre are discussed but only briefly.

The author asks interesting questions about nationalism. He discusses the artificial propping up of nationalistic spirits by politicians, journalists and poets. He also discusses the reasons why hitherto neighbors became enemies overnight.

I wrote some lecture notes at the following url:

<http://clockhands.wordpress.com/2011/11/27/the-serbs-part-1/>

Simon says

A well-written history with some journalistic flair.

Zechy says

Fascinating,enlightening.

Rick says

Everyone who follows Eastern European politics should read this book for its fascinating insights into the collective Serbian psyche. While generalizing an entire ethnic group is always problematic (at best), this book provides such interesting information and analysis that it is, to me, indispensable.

Bruce Crown says

Academic historical account of the Serbs. Well put together and detailed. Though it is an American's take on the modern day conflicts and history, we're hard pressed to find English books about nations where their intellectuals do not engage in English.

iain meek says

A complex history of a complex region- they all seem to be mad or at least fixated on righting historic wrongs but each group has a different view of history.

Well written- but confusing due to all the strangely named characters.

thanks to City of London libraries

Christopher Roth says

A nice overview. One cannot understand Bosnia, or Kosovo, or Macedonia, without understanding what "Serbia" is. Well argued and insightful, with lots of useful historical summary.

Christine says

4.5 stars. Really excellent pretty comprehensive history of Serbia. Someone on Amazon mentioned that it might not be the best FIRST history of Serbia one reads, but I believe if a person lived through the 1990s and paid some attention, this is an excellent first choice.

Lucinda says

I stopped reading this book soon after the astoundingly stupid line, "His control over the empire disintegrated after his death." An astute editor might have caught such a problem with logic.

Tucker Jones says

This is the single greatest book about Serbian history that I've read, and I've read quite a few.

Stefan says

Very good book on the history of the Serbs and the background of the Balkan wars of the 90's written by a British journalist who worked and lived in Yugoslavia for several years as a Balkan correspondent. It was written before the Kosovo war, which makes it interesting. The last couple of chapters are less focused. For a book written by a journalist, I must admit that the medieval history of Serbia chapters are probably the best I have ever read.

Scott says

Great read, I was glad to get an American writer's view of Serbia, and I thought it was well done. He really explains how much the Serbians suffered because of their leaders mistakes. He had a crazy chapter about the inflation that had record breaking levels. He also explained how the Serbs eventually left Serbia and the army because of the unfulfilled promises of their leaders. Informative.

Ashley Sasnett says

Extremely involved. I cannot imagine what it entailed to put this book together. It is really really good. I found it balanced which is to say the author does not engage in sweeping indictments but is still critical. Tito was the exception not the rule and the modern Yugoslav experiment was destined to fail. Makes one worry about the stability of many of our artificially created nation-states. Or is it just me?

Alice says

OK, I admit - I skimmed the last half of this book. It started out so promising; less about wars/leaders, and more about the people and how events impacted them. Then, it devolved into an ultra-detailed history of the 1990's war. Yawn.
