

Although minority issues are very well described and analyzed, the view of the members of the minority communities on their situation is mostly absent. The relations between Russia, international organizations and the Baltic states, Russia's foreign policy regarding not only its Diaspora but also the will to maintain influence in the Baltic area and the evolution of minority policies in Estonia and Latvia are however, very broadly depicted. Overall, this book is well written, making it an excellent reading for IR, political science or minority studies scholars, for practitioners, and policy-makers dealing with minority issues.

Xavier Bougarel, Elissa Helms, and Gerlachus Duijzings.
The New Bosnian Mosaic: Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Post-war Society. (Surrey: Ashgate, 2007).

Author: Christine Zubrinic
Royal Military College of Canada

Since the dissolution of Yugoslavia and the subsequent wars, Bosnia has become a symbol of emerging ethnic nationalism as well as a model for studies in peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. *The New Bosnian Mosaic: Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Post-War Society* edited by Xavier Bougarel is a rich contribution to the study of post-conflict transition and reconstruction from an anthropological and ethnographic perspective that allows the reader to better understand the quandaries faced by Bosnia and those involved in post-Dayton reconstruction. *The New Bosnian Mosaic* is a collection of academic essays written by researchers in the fields of anthropology, ethnic studies and international relations between the most pivotal years of Bosnia's reconstruction between 1999 and 2003. The wealth of academic and field experience brought forth by the contributors gives the work a completeness often lacking in other works of the same subject matter. By incorporating these experiences this work succeeds in answering the large and daunting questions which surround Bosnia's past, present

and future without falling victim to the generalizations which often plague academic research on the problems facing Bosnia.

Explaining the complicated situation and challenges of post-Dayton Bosnia can at times seem like an intimidating undertaking, but Xavier Bougarel and his contributors have managed to tackle the subject in an effective manner. The impressive group of contributors which Bougarel has assembled bring with them a great deal of empirical knowledge based on both academic and field research. As a result of the breadth of knowledge of the contributors a wide array of aspects surrounding the Bosnian post-conflict reconstruction and transition are examined, including the work of individuals and organizations, in an attempt to better understand the challenges faced post-Dayton. The book's emphasis on the perspective of local and native Bosnians sheds some light on the problems that have plagued reconstruction and transition efforts thus far.

The complex nature of the subject matter as well as the ambitious amount of information loaded into this book necessitated a strong structural lay out. This was achieved through the divisions of the essays into three sections entitled, 'beyond ethnicity', 'beyond ancient hatred' and 'beyond protectorate'. This strengthened the overall readability of the book in part or as a whole making it a very useful resource for academic research. The first section, entitled 'beyond ethnicity', examines the role ethnicity has played in the post Dayton environment. Each essay examines a different aspect of ethnicity in Bosnia; however all have included the use of sources of information from 'locals'. This emphasis of inclusion of local sources enriches the arguments laid out and gives the theories a more plausible applicability than other works in this area.

The second section, 'beyond ancient hatreds', deals with the collective memory of victims of violence and its impact on the future of Bosnia. This topic is especially important to the reconstruction and transition of Bosnia specifically due to the

blame often placed on 'ancient hatred' for its role in the violence of the war. This section is well done and a balance has been struck by examining the issue of 'ancient hatred' from a number of different perspectives. One criticism that can be levelled at this section is the lack of perspective from the Bosnian Serbs; this inclusion would have been an interesting and enriching addition. The third and final section, 'beyond protectorate', concentrates on the transition of the political systems of Bosnia following the Dayton Agreements. Of particular interest in this section is the examination of the economic issues facing Bosnia with emphasis on the emergence of a strong black market. This section is particularly important as it emphasizes the problems faced by the international community as well as the Bosnian leadership when attempting to rebuild a fully functional Bosnia. The chapters included in this work all possess one refreshing characteristic: the chapters concentrate on the rich and vast Bosnian situation rather than reaching to make comparisons or theories of applicability to other conflicts.

The most important contribution this work offers is its emphasis on the social understanding of Bosnians themselves and the social life within Bosnia. This work has successfully avoided the many pitfalls associated with writing on Bosnia and the Balkans as a whole. It has not fallen victim to the generalizations which often plague studies of Bosnia and this is in part due to the consistent objectivity present throughout the work from author to author. Despite the hundreds of works dedicated to the study of Bosnia, none have made as much effort to unearth the societal road blocks to progress in Bosnia; by doing so Bougarel and his contributors have made an exceptional contribution to the literature on Bosnia post Dayton.