

there is an established status quo, becoming ever stronger with the passage of time, as the invaders are treated in the same way as the free part of Cyprus, legalizing absolutely the act of occupation.

The name and the history of Malta (Adrianus Koster, pp. 118-131) are also closely connected to the long colonial presence of Great Britain (1800-1964) as well as the presence of British military bases until 1979. This young Mediterranean island democracy continues to balance its geographical position close to North Africa with its political will to be admitted into the European Union. The political leader, socialist Dom Mintoff, who was Prime Minister of Malta from 1971 to 1984, contributed to the close relations that Malta maintained with third world countries, particularly Libya, throughout this period. Malta's European prospects began in 1987, when after 16 years of continuous government of the country by the Labour Party, the right-wing liberal government of F. Adami came to power.

The new issues (demographic problems, religious fundamentalism, nationalism, minorities, non-governmental organizations, ecological matters, etc) faced first and foremost by Europe in the present transitional period, as balances are restored in a new order of things, to some degree make it necessary to publish a new and more analytical Studies Guide, both for the Mediterranean and for the Balkans.

*Institute for Balkan Studies*

KYRIAKOS D. KENTROTIS

*The Truth on Kosova*, The Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Albania. Institute of History, Tirana 1993, pp. 351.

The disintegration of Yugoslavia, the most manifest and surely the most painful of the changes that the political map of the Balkans experienced during last years, gave the superficially changed Albanian state the opportunity to bring once more to the scene of the international diplomacy the question of the Albanian minority living in Kosovo and to support its historical right to self-determination. In this framework of the Albanian irredentist policy and propaganda the present publication should be included, fundamental aim of which is to inform the international public opinion about the question of Kosovo and its historical background and to refute at the same time the Yugoslav arguments, as they were expressed through the recent volume *Kosovo-Past and Present* (Belgrade 1989).

The present publication is a collection of articles by Albanian authors from Albania (S. Anamali, E. Çabej, S. Pulaha, S. Pollo, A. Puto, K. Prifti and others) or Kosovo (E. Pillana, Z. Cana, A. Hadri, L. Rushiti, H. Bajrami, H. Islami and R. Qosja), and by foreign historians from the former Yugoslavia (A. Stipcevic, R. Katicic, H. Baric, D. Tucovic and B. Krisman), from France (A. Ducellier and M. Roux), and from Austria (C. Jirecek). A good part of them were written especially for this publication, but there are also articles previously published in different scientific journals. Besides these, the publication includes articles of senior scientific researchers or candidates of historic science (P. Xhufi, P. Bogdani, Z. Shtylla, M. Verli, L. Nasi and A. Lalaj). The edition is also accompanied with six excerpts from the press referring to the years 1913-1938 and 1989 and 35 documents, most important of which should be considered the contemporary ones, from 1990 onwards, concerning the declaration of Kosovo's independence.

The contents have been arranged in seven chapters according to chronological order, starting from the time of Antiquity and arriving to the present days. Three seem to be the main topics treated by the articles included: the descent of the Albanian people from the Illyrians and its historical presence at the western side of the Balkans since the time of Antiquity; the Albanian national consciousness of the population living at the Kosovo area and its continual wish for self-determination and unification with the mother-Albania; finally, the oppressive policy that the Serbs had always followed against Kosovo Albanians and the measures they took in order to alter the national physiognomy of the region.

The entire first chapter and two of the articles of the second one are dedicated to the first main topic. Their fundamental aim, as mentioned before, is to prove the autochthony of the Albanian tribes in the Balkan peninsula. Starting from the time of Antiquity and arriving (very briefly is true) in the 6th century A.C. and using as evidence ancient historical sources, such as Herodotus and Appianus (S. Anamali and A. Stipcevic), or anthroponymies of Albanian origin (E. Çabej and R. Katicic), the authors try to prove that present Albanians are descendants of the ancient Illyrian tribes inhabiting not only the territory of the present Albanian state, but a more extensive area including the western part of the Balkan peninsula, along the coasts of the Ionian and Adriatic sea in the west to river Vardar in the east and from the rivers Sava and Danub in the north to Pindus mountains in the south. Especially for the first chapter, we should distinguish the studies of the historian S. Anamali and the ethnologist-linguist E. Çabej as particularly interesting, calm and well-documented.

The same thought continues at the articles of S. Pulaha and A. Ducellier, of the second chapter, which bring us to the 17th century A.C. Referring to Austrian historical sources or testimonies of the Ottoman period (S. Pulaha) or to Hellenic-Byzantine sources (A. Ducellier), they try to prove that the Albanians in reality didn't establish themselves in the Kosovo area after the Austro-Turkish war of 1683-1699, as Serb historians usually pretend, but that this population was autochthonous. Nevertheless, it should be noted that since this particular period is extremely poor in accurate information, a positive answer to the question is not yet possible and, as a result, the two articles do not seem to persuade the reader.

Unfortunately, from the very first chapter one of the most evident weaknesses of the volume becomes obvious: the inequality existing between the included articles as concerns their importance and documentation. Scientific studies of several authors are put side by side with propagandistic emotional excerpts of other essays, and, as a result, the trustworthiness of the entire publication is being shaken. Besides, the present publication does not manage or perhaps does not wish to leave behind the permanent weakness of Albanian historiography, i.e. the direct passing from Antiquity to Middle Ages, with a wide gap at the intermediate period. Although the *Foreword* informs us that the volume "does not claim to give a comprehensive history of Kosova and the Albanian population in Yugoslavia from Antiquity to the present day, ...but to shed light on those aspects of the past and present of Kosova and the Albanian population, which for a long time and especially during the last 8 years the Yugoslav historiography and propaganda have been presenting in a completely distorted manner and in open contradiction with the truth", nevertheless there has not been made the slightest attempt to link the periods of Antiquity and Middle Ages between them, or to make any reference to the historic continuity of the Albanian population.

The third chapter goes, with a second jump, to the last decades of the 19th century, period of the Albanian national awakening. Two of the articles included refer in general to the activity of the League of Prizren (S. Pollo) and to the creation of an independent Albanian state as a result of the Balkan wars (A. Puto). Concerning Kosovo, most importance has been given not to the description of the national awakening of the Albanian population there, but to the various atrocities that this population suffered from the Serbs (E. Pllana and Z. Cana). Thus the chapter in question seems to be considerably deficient and it doesn't manage to persuade the reader for the existence of an original national movement among Kosovo Albanians. Besides, the documents following these particular articles are official reports or protests of the

Albanian nationalist leaders in the framework of the League of Prizren and not documents referring exclusively to the national movement in Kosovo.

More interesting and well-documented is the fourth chapter concerning the living conditions of the Albanian population in Yugoslavia during the Interwar period. Special emphasis has been given to the economical and educational situation prevailing in Kosovo (A. Hadri), and to the concerted efforts pursued by Serb authorities in order to alter its Albanian ethnic character. The agrarian reform seems to be the main measure used in this direction and it gave many Serbs the opportunity to establish themselves in the region; besides, according to the authors, the authorities didn't hesitate to disarm the local populations, to incite the Albanian element to emigrate to Turkey and Albania or to use any other kind of economic pressure. Two of the four articles, these of Z. Shtylla and M. Verli, and most of the excerpts of the press and the documents included refer especially to the last subject. Very interesting are the three first studies of the chapter (A. Hadri, Z. Shtylla and M. Verli), which also give a lot of numerical and statistical data.

Contrary to the previous chapter, which could be qualified as one of the most thorough and persuasive of the entire publication, the fifth, which refers to the contribution of the Albanian population of Kosovo to the anti-fascist resistance during World War II, seems to be insufficient. This particular question is not easy to deal with, for two main reasons: first, because of the fact that the Kosovo area had been unified by the Italian occupation troops with Albania, thus fulfilling one of the national wishes of the local population, and, second, because of the leadership of the CPY, which being almost entirely Serbian caused a great mistrust to the Albanian population and discouraged it from participating to the movement. As a consequence this problem seems to embarrass to a certain extent the author (L. Nasi): since he cannot do otherwise, he admits that no remarkable resistance movement had grown up in the region till the capitulation of Italy in 1943; but, as he pretends, nothing prevented it from growing up later. The second article included (A. Lalaj) is totally dedicated to a pre-existing controversy between Albanian and Serbian historiography, the one regarding the Buja Conference of 1944 and its significance (the official decisions of the Conference are also included at the end of the chapter), and generally to the plans that the Serbs were preparing for Kosovo after the end of World War II.

With the sixth chapter we come to the contemporary history of Kosovo, within the framework of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, till 1990. Its main purpose is to prove the extend and variety of oppressive practices pursued for years by Serbian authorities in order to denationalize the region:

many Kosovo Albanians were baptised "Turks" and were obliged to emigrate to Turkey, continuing the same policy followed during 1950-1966 (Z. Shtylla), while the entire population was subject to a state of terrorism which began in 1981 and lasts until present days (K. Prifti). The lack of economic growth in the region should also be considered as an intentional and planned absence of investments (K. Prifti-M. Verli and M. Roux, whose article is very remarkable and offers an interesting analysis of the question). The same chapter tries, finally, to deal with two more matters: first, the demographic development of the population after the end of World War II (H. Islami), and second, the state of autonomy of Kosovo through the Constitutions of the Republic of Yugoslavia during 1945-1989 (L. Omari), an article that seems to pave the way for the following chapter, which is exclusively dedicated to the declaration of Kosovo's independence in 1991.

Actually, the seventh and last chapter includes only official documents concerning the political developments of the years 1990-1992, which bring to an end the present publication by trying to give the reader the impression that the proclamation of the Republic of Kosovo as a sovereign and independent state was nothing more than the happy conclusion of a long series of struggles and the expression of the national sentiment and wish of the Albanian population of Kosovo for independence and self-determination.

*Institute for Balkan Studies*

ELEFThERIA MANDA

Magocsi Paul Robert, *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe*, University of Washington Press 1993, pp. 218+xii.

The Historical Atlas of East Central Europe by Paul Robert Magocsi is volume one in the University of Washington's new series *A History of East Central Europe*. This is the first comprehensive and systematic study of the area in one language. The Atlas is written in chronological order. It clarifies and illuminates the whole history of the area from 400 AD to the present with the 89 full colour accompanying maps for each period of time showing the economical patterns, political boundaries, religious groups and conflicts, transport links and movement and migration of peoples/races and cultural boundaries. Particularly useful is the index with hundred's of variant place names. The Historical Atlas of East Europe is ideal for the journalists, the