



To Kill a Nation: The Attack on Yugoslavia

Michael Parenti

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Drawing on a wide range of unpublished material and observations gathered from his visit to Yugoslavia in 1999, Michael Parenti challenges mainstream media coverage of the war and uncovers hidden agendas behind the Western talk of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and democracy.

To Kill a Nation: The Attack on Yugoslavia Details

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R.K. Byers says

should have paid more attention to this guy back when he was my college professor.

Des says

Well documented account of US motives in the dismemberment and destruction of Yugoslavia. Although my Hungarian brother-in-law, from a bit closer to the action, understandably disagrees, it certainly highlights the hypocrisy by which political actors like Milosovic and undisputedly brutal dictators like Saddam Hussein are put through show trials by far greater criminals who (sofar) act with impunity. The Spanish trial of Pinochet and the recent Malaysian conviction in absentia of Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeldt et.al. offer signs of hope that the International War Crimes Tribunal may be rehabilitated and command the respect required for war criminals of all nations to be brought to justice.

Arno Noack says

amazing book i cant recommend it enough,

"Leaders and media find authentication for the images they propagate in the images they have already propagated."

this quote embodies us propaganda during their demonization and ethnic cleansing of the Serbian people in the name of free markets and anti-communism.

It is important now that we are at the eve of the neo-liberal imperialist destruction of Syria that we look back on the neo-liberal destruction of Yugoslavia and displacement of the Serbs.

we need to take a critical perspective and ask ourselves what are our real motives, and what is the real truth. history has shown us that what we are being fed by our own media has never been the true narrative and all the signs are always there we just refuse to acknowledge. we believe we have a free press because we are told its free. but its not free its expensive ass hell and those behind cnn nbc fox and even the precious NGO's like npr pbs and amnesty benefit from this destruction and exploitation and are more than happy to feed us the same false narrative no matter what the cost to innocent life.

Parenti is always dead on.

he details the us operations in all of the former FRY states and gives us the official line then the harsh reality backed up by countless sources in our own media as well as the strongly ignored opposition to detail yet another horror in the colonial neo-liberal crusades of nato and the American empire in the name of global capitalist hegemony.

Maria Savic says

Easy to read...good to know...scary to think about (the kind of world we live in)...it's sad that more people know about & are interested in Harry Potter land than their own lands

Mick says

This book will be controversial even more today than when it was written due to the evidence we have gained on atrocities committed by Serb military forces in Bosnia, which this book disputed. This does not make it any less important or satisfying to read. The universal level of support NATO was given for the attack on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the media and political thinkers is unparalleled in my generation's lifetime, so any well written and factual criticism of that message should be required reading for "millennials". Dr. Parenti gives us that criticism in this book. It should not be treated as an infallible source of facts that have been proven or disproved over time, especially for facts that would need eye-witness support. The story of how NATO was given a blank check to wage a war on a country with an alternative vision of the political economy of post-communist Europe, and did it in the name of humanitarianism, is what Parenti does well and is worth reading for.

Note: even the official use of its chosen name was attacked with NATO calling it "Serbia and Montenegro" which eventually did become its official name after 2003, and bizarrely even the English language Wikipedia's article on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is titled "Serbia and Montenegro" in a decision confirmed by a vote of its editors in 2012.

Martin Sidgreaves says

I found this to be an exceptional informative book and having a very personal interest in Serbia and the former Yugoslavia I was keen to see what it had to say. To be honest, I half expected another character assassination of the the Serbian people & their culture as is the norm in the western media. How wrong I was.....

From the start it is made clear that the western knowledge of the breakup of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) was manipulated and at times manufactured by the western politicians & media for their own gains. Throughout the text there are exact examples & evidence of how this was orchestrated and all are clearly referenced removing any ideas of conspiracy or falsification.

What is clear is that the terrible reputation that Serbians have in the west is not deserved and although they clearly were responsible for some of the wrong-doing in the Balkan Conflicts, they did not act alone and at times were blamed for incidents that were perpetrated by others.

Some may feel that the book lacks a balance of opinion being heavily weighted towards 'pro Serbia', however if one considers the amount of opinion in the media that is just as heavily weighted the other way then this one book is a very small but powerful voice that deserves to be heard.

This is well worth reading for anyone interested in the terrible events that happened during the break-up of the FRY, whichever side of the fence you stand.

Alex says

"Portraying the Serbs as evil and everyone else as good was not only counter - productive but also dishonest. According to my experience all sides were guilty but only the Serbs would admit that they were no angels while the others would insist that they were." - Lieutenant - General Satish Nambiar, former deputy chief of staff of the Indian Army and head of UN forces deployed in Yugoslavia (1992-93)

sologdin says

tidy little portrait of how US public relations firms managed perception of the Yugoslav wars on behalf of imperialists interests. I still see plenty of well-meaning liberal types parroting the US propaganda of those years, which makes them structurally identical with teabaggers, on the question of US empire.

Rachel D says

This is a surprising, eye-opening book that reveals that much of what we heard in the West about the goings-on in Yugoslavia as it broke up and in Serbia, was manufactured. It also shows convincingly that the NATO aggression against Serbia in 1999 was an illegal action and that things during those times (from the Bosnian war in 1992 to Kosovo in 1999) were not as simple as the Western press made them out to be. I was surprised to learn that much of what we thought happened turned out to have been made up or exaggerated. A must-read for anyone who seeks a nuanced, propaganda-free understanding of what went on in the Balkans in the 1990s and how the US and the Western press were complicit in much of it.

Christopher Rex says

If you want any sort of "balance" to your understanding of the Balkan Wars, start here. See how the Europeans (particularly Germany) allowed the wars to unfold (and indirectly encouraged them), and then sat by passively as Croats, Serbs and Muslims butchered each other in Bosnia. The Serbs were then systematically demonized across the board to justify Western intervention. The reality on the ground was much, much different. Until today, the official "Serbs bad, everyone else good" story is largely what is perpetuated by the West to justify their "humanitarian intervention". The reality on the ground was far from the "good vs. evil" struggle perpetuated by the West as they pounded Serbia into subservience. The result was the division and neo-colonization of former Yugoslavia - precisely what was desired by the western powers from the outset. This book will open your eyes to all sorts of evidence largely ignored by the Western media and give a much more well-balanced understanding of the Balkan Wars.

Próndr says

This book should be required reading simply to balance the biased media coverage of the break-up of Yugoslavia. Parenti makes a compelling argument that the demonization of the Serbs served the purpose as a decoy; as a scanty (but effective) fig leaf meant to cover up the fact that the Western intervention in Yugoslavia was driven by the forces of free-market globalization rather than humanitarian principles. A well written and thought provoking book. I read it several years back, and originally gave it a four star rating – my slight reservation was (and still is) that Parenti paints a much too rosy picture of the former Yugoslavia, but I've decided to nevertheless up my rating with an additional star after a recent media fracas which reminded me that the media war is indeed still ongoing.

Vanya Ztahelskij says

Absolutely essential reading for understanding how NATO operates. The most important historical book I have read in years.
