

This volume is a welcome move toward answering them, and it is to be hoped that the essays in it will provide something of an agenda for future researchers.

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The Sandžak: A History. By Kenneth Morrison and Elizabeth Roberts. London: Hurst and Company, 2013. xix, 285 pp. Abbreviations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Illustrations. Maps. £45.00, hard bound.

This book is the first English-language monograph devoted to the Sandžak, the small historical region in the western Balkans divided between the states of Serbia and Montenegro. As the authors state, “The Sandžak, even in the myriad works that focus on the disintegration of the Yugoslav state and the subsequent wars of the 1990s, has remained in the margins. . . . This book, therefore, represents an attempt to redress this imbalance” (1–2). In terms of length, the two authors are equally responsible for the work, with Elizabeth Roberts having written the first 94 pages, covering the period from prehistory up to the end of World War I, and Kenneth Morrison the next 96 pages, covering the period from 1918 up to the present day.

This is, therefore, an ambitious attempt at a general history of the region, but since the first two-thirds of the book, covering the period before the 1980s, are based mostly on secondary sources, the work remains somewhat a prisoner of the limitations of the existing literature which it was intended to address. The authors have tried hard to extract the history of the Sandžak from this literature, but the pickings are not rich. Rather than a genuine regional history, these sections are more of a retelling of the familiar history of the western Balkans, with a focus on the Sandžak wherever the sources permit. Consequently, this book does not revolutionize or transform our understanding of the Sandžak, but it does succeed in shedding light on certain episodes in its history.

One illuminating section of the book concerns Austro-Hungarian policy toward the Sandžak in the period 1878–1908. As Roberts explains, Vienna initially sought in 1878 to occupy the territory along with Bosnia-Hercegovina, given its strategic importance as a wedge separating Serbia and Montenegro and as a bridgehead for further southward expansion in the Balkans; but it retreated from this move, possibly in consideration of both external and domestic constraints, with the result that the Treaty of Berlin permitted it to garrison but not fully occupy the territory. Then, when Vienna annexed Bosnia-Hercegovina in 1908, it felt compelled to withdraw its garrisons from the Sandžak as a *quid pro quo*, thereby removing the obstacle that they had posed to the feared union of Serbia and Montenegro. This tactical retreat was rationalized by the assumption that it was Serbia itself, not the Sandžak, that Vienna needed to control in order to protect its interests in the Balkans. This consequently contributed to its decision to attack Serbia in 1914. Roberts generally displays an impressive grasp of Balkan history and skill in situating the Sandžak within it.

Some topics are covered more cursorily. The period of the Yugoslav kingdom (1918–41) receives only eight pages, and the Tito period (1945–80) a mere five—the latter undoubtedly due in large part to the existing secondary sources being so limited. On the other hand, the final third of the book, comprising Morrison’s overview of the period from the 1980s to the present day, is based on more original research involving primary sources from the former Yugoslavia and provides a useful introductory narrative history of the Sandžak not easily available elsewhere. It thus indeed plugs a gap in our knowledge of the break-up of Yugoslavia, the wars of Yugoslav succes-

sion, and the history of the successor states of Serbia and Montenegro. For this section of the book, the treatment of the broader context of Sandžak politics is stronger on Montenegro than it is on Serbia, undoubtedly reflecting Morrison's background as a Montenegrin specialist.

Morrison provides considerable interesting detail on Serb-Bosniak and intra-Bosniak politics in the Sandžak, explaining in depth the conflicts between such figures as Rasim Ljajić, Sulejman Ugljanin, and Muamer Zukorlić. His treatment of Serb-Bosniak relations is judiciously even-handed, though he attributes a larger share of the blame in the deterioration of relations to the activities of the Bosniak nationalists, portraying Serb nationalism, at least at the regional level, as more reactive—a conclusion that may be challenged.

A groundbreaking work this is not, but those seeking a broad overview of Balkan history and the place of the Sandžak within it, with some valuable insights into particular episodes and an introduction to the previously opaque role of the territory in the history of the former Yugoslavia during and after the break-up, might not be disappointed.

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Substitute for Power: Wartime British Propaganda to the Balkans, 1939–44. By Ioannis Stefanidis. Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2012. xii, 318 pp. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Illustrations. Hard bound.

This is a detailed and wide-ranging work covering British wartime propaganda to the Balkans. It has two introductory chapters and a third on regional themes, followed by separate chapters for each of the Balkan states under discussion: Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, and Yugoslavia. Each of these chapters is divided thematically, opening with a section on British wartime policy toward each country and the political situation in the run-up to World War II and concluding with an assessment of the effectiveness of British propaganda. It is based on contemporary documents from the National Archives and the BBC Written Archives; secondary sources include the accounts and interpretations of some of the participants in wartime Balkan affairs.

The two introductory chapters cover fairly familiar ground, with little new information, occasionally seeming to take for granted the reader's familiarity with the area (for example, the resistance movements in both Yugoslavia and Greece are mentioned without any prior introduction). The book hits its stride and becomes far more compelling once Ioannis Stefanidis drills down into the nitty-gritty practicalities and problems of framing and disseminating propaganda to the individual Balkan states. He makes important points about the problems engendered by the conflicting interests of some of those states; for example, the Bulgarian occupation of parts of Yugoslavia and Greece caused headaches. He also explores the delicate task of tailoring propaganda in the face of internal divisions—based on class, politics, religion, or ethnicity—without alienating others. Further challenges for the propagandists were presented by issues such as the widespread antisemitism in Romania and the complications of continued British support for the Greek king, despite his unpopularity within the country. Perhaps the most difficult and contentious aspect of propaganda making came about once conflicting resistance forces took to the field within Yugoslavia and Greece. The author also expounds on the complications of having these countries' exiled governments in London and their natural desire to have a hand in forming propaganda to their homelands.