

Serbian Paramilitaries and the Breakup of Yugoslavia

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Résumé ou extrait : This is the first book to offer a comprehensive analysis of the emergence, nature, and function of Serbian paramilitary units during the violent breakup of Yugoslavia. The book investigates the nature and functions of paramilitary units throughout the 1990s, and their ties to the state and President Slobodan Milošević. The work relies on the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, which conducted dozens of trials relating to paramilitary violence, and records from judicial proceedings in the region. It discusses how and why certain important paramilitary units emerged, how they functioned and transformed through the decade, what their relationships and entanglements were with the state, the Milošević regime, and organized crime. The study thus investigates the interrelated ideological, political, and social factors and processes fuelling

paramilitary engagement and assesses the impact of this engagement on victims of paramilitary violence and on the state and society for which the units purportedly fought. It argues that coordinated action by a number of state institutions gave rise to paramilitaries tasked with altering borders while maintaining plausible deniability for the sponsoring regime. The outsourcing of violence by the state to paramilitaries led to a significant weakening of the very state these units and their sponsors swore to protect. The book also analyzes differences between the units and how they attacked civilians, arguing that the different forms of violence stemmed not only from the function they fulfilled for the state but also the ways in which they were set up and operated. The final chapter brings the different strands of the argument together into a coherent whole, suggesting avenues for further research, in the former Yugoslavia and beyond. This book will be of much interest to students of ethnic conflict and civil war, war crimes, Balkan politics and International Relations in general

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Organisations paramilitaires -- Yougoslavie -- 20e siècle

Services de renseignements -- Serbie -- 20e siècle

Guerre dans l'ex-Yougoslavie (1991-1995) -- Atrocités

Violence politique -- Yougoslavie -- 20e siècle

Organisations paramilitaires -- Droit -- Serbie -- 20e siècle

Politique et gouvernement -- Yougoslavie -- 1992-2003

Politique et gouvernement -- Yougoslavie -- 1980-1992