

# Wild Europe: The Balkans In The Gaze Of Western Travellers

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dent associations to insist on more ethical standards from academics is not discussed, nor is the decline of the student movement since the early 1990s. But these are minor blemishes in an important and timely study that shows that if schools and universities "devalue critical thinking, encourage conformity, clientelism and unquestioning deference to authority, then how can we expect society at large to be any different" (165). Without an educational system characterized by openness and a cooperative spirit, Romanian politics will likely be characterized by a resented and disempowered electorate unwilling to bring its will to bear on the ruling few. This book, balanced and informative about Romanian education in general, should be required reading for those Eurocrats who have shaped Romanian spending priorities since 2000 in order to prepare the country for membership by 2007-8. Education has not been one of those priorities, which increases the likelihood that Romania will be an underdeveloped periphery within the European Union.

TOM GALLAGHER  
University of Bradford, United Kingdom

*Wild Europe: The Balkans in the Gaze of Western Travellers.* By Božidar Jezernik. London: Saqi Books, in association with the Bosnian Institute, 2004. 320 pp. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Illustrations. \$24.95, paper.

For a long time, the Balkans have been construed as a backwards "other" in western eyes. Western interpretations of the recent wars in the Balkans as "savage" and "primitive" have opened the floodgates on scholarship exploring how such views emerged and evolved. The preponderance of these sources focus on larger political and or ethnoracial questions, which are indeed critical for understanding the western encounter with the Balkans. Božidar Jezernik's *Wild Europe*, in contrast, offers a fresh and tantalizing approach to Balkan cultural history, with forays into everything from gritty questions of everyday life, to broader themes like the Balkan culture of violence, sociability, and urban design.

With enticing chapter titles such as "Ladies with Greasy Fingers," "Males with Tails," and "Passionate about Head-Hunting," Jezernik does not fail to deliver the goods. The reader is provided with details of various Balkan practices as described by western (as well as Russian and Turkish) visitors, mostly in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We learn the unsanitized "truth" about Balkan table manners as well as the common tradition of severing, salting, stuffing, or displaying enemy heads on stakes. We also vicariously visit the nineteenth-century Balkan coffeehouse, complete with its dancing young boys (dressed as women), its steamy cups of "hellish brew," and its smoldering *chibouk* (hookah). Jezernik's examples, Jezernik explores how western European travelers came to understand themselves as "civilized" in relation to a Balkan "other."

But having engaged such critical questions, Jezernik supplies an inadequate analysis of their conceptual implications. He does not, for example, seem to cite Maria Todorova's *Imagining the Balkans* (1997) anywhere in the text, though it does appear in the bibliography. Nor does he cite Milica Bakic-Hayden's well-known article "Nesting Orientalisms" (*Slavic Review* 54, no. 4 (Winter 1995)), both glaring omissions for a book that deals with this subject matter. In fact this book makes a substantial contribution to the Todorova—Bakic-Hayden debate on whether orientalism is applicable to the Balkans. And while Jezernik does seem to employ the concept of orientalism, he neither uses the term nor does Edward Said appear in his bibliography. In the foreword, Joel Halpern applauds

Combining witty comment with meticulous research abounding in historical and cultural detail, Jezernik reveals how from the mid 16th to the late 20th century. Combining witty commentary with meticulous research, Jezernik reveals how "the Balkans" have been perceived by Western European travellers and experts. Combining witty commentary with meticulous research, Jezernik reveals how the Balkans have been perceived by Western European travellers and experts. oxygen-manchester.com: Wild Europe: The Balkans in the Gaze of Western Travellers ( Paperback): Language: English. Brand New Book. Combining witty comment with. Wild Europe has 49 ratings and 4 reviews. Boris said: What a fabulous idea and intention, what a chaotic oxygen-manchester.com book could have represented an. Wild Europe. The Balkans in the Gaze of Western Travellers. Božidar Jezernik. Combining witty commentary with meticulous research, and abounding in. Wild Europe: Perceptions of the Balkans and the East of Ljubljana, wrote Wild Europe: The Balkans in the Gaze of Western Travellers. Download Citation on ResearchGate On Apr 1, , Mary Neuburger and others published Wild Europe: The Balkans in the Gaze of Western Travellers }. Machine derived contents note: Table of contents for Wild Europe: the Balkans in the gaze of Western travellers /? Božidar Jezernik. Bibliographic record and. Main Author: Jezernik, Božidar. Language(s): English. Published: London: Saqi in association with the Bosnian Institute, Subjects: Travelers > Balkan. Combining irony with detailed historical and cultural research, Jezernik reveals how from the mid 16th to the late 20th century "The Balkans" have been. Jezernik reveals how from the mid 16th to the late 20th century "The Balkans" have been perceived by west European travellers and experts, many of whom. Creator: Jezernik, Božidar. Publisher: London: Saqi in association with the Bosnian Institute, Format: Books. Physical Description: p.:ill., maps ;23 cm. Wild Europe: The Balkans in the Gaze of Western Travellers. By Božidar Jezernik. London: Saqi Books, in association with the Bosnian Institute. Buy Wild Europe by Božidar Jezernik from Waterstones today! Wild Europe: The Balkans through the Gaze of Western Travellers (Paperback). Booktopia has Wild Europe, The Balkans in the Gaze of Western Travellers by Božidar Jezernik. Buy a discounted Paperback of Wild Europe online from. Wild Europe: The Balkans in the Gaze of Western Travellers. Combining comment with research abounding in historical and cultural detail, this book tells.. Božidar Jezernik teaches cultural anthropology at the University of Ljubljana ( Slovenia). The rich source material includes citations from naturalists, geographers. WILD EUROPE: The Balkans in the Gaze of Western Travellers John Freely's enchanting guide to the western shores of Turkey is subtitled Discovering the.

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