

ABSTRACT

THE BALKANS

KLEIN, András: The Balkans. A Never-ending Political Story 3

The author gives a general overview of the 2022 fall political situation of the Balkans while trying to identify the political, economic and social trends that shape political developments in the region. He also discusses the way regional countries think about the war in Ukraine along with how they try to use the new cold-war era atmosphere to further their national ambitions. After analysing the consequences of the sluggishness of the EU integration process in the area the paper also gives an overview of the national conflicts determining the 2022 political situation of the Balkans: the Serbian-Albanian tensions regarding Kosovo, the mistrust between the constituent nations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the amplification of the Bulgarian-Macedonian dispute. Finally, the author also elaborates on the weakness of the state in the new countries of the Balkans and its consequences: organized crime, corruption and emigration.

MÁRKUSZ, László: Theories of Nation Versus Reality in the Balkans 25

Both the Albanian and the Serbian nation have constructed a national mythology about their glorious past. But can we really talk about 'perennial' nations before modern times? Is it realistic to call the medieval state of the Nemanjić dynasty an ethnically homogeneous Serbian state? Or can we take scientifically proven the claim that the Albanians are the descendants of ancient Illyrians? The author tries to identify the gap between the claims of national historiographies and scientific facts. At the same time, he gives a description of how historical memories, language and religion had an impact on the development of modern Serbian and Albanian nation.

BALOGH, György: Is the Serbian Orthodox Church Embarking on New Paths? The Impact of the Serbian Orthodox Church on Serbia's Foreign Policy 47

The priority and end goal of the Serbian Orthodox (Pravoslav) Church (SOC) is not to definitively fix the form and extent of the Serbian state. It is only a tool in the SOC's quest to ensure the survival and dominance of the Pravoslav faith in the region and its own institutional place and influence in the community of ecumenical Orthodox churches. The final conclusion of the study is that

the question is not whether the SOC exerts influence on the foreign policy of the Serbian state, but the extent and direction of influence it will exert on it in the future. On the other hand, the question is to what extent Serbian foreign policy, under pressure from the European Union and the USA, can support the longer-term goals of the SOC in the Western Balkans and in the community of universal Orthodoxy. Thirdly, it may also be a question of how well the EU and the US are aware that, at present, the calm, restrained, open-minded stance of the Orthodox Church towards other faiths is provided by Patriarch Porfirije of Belgrade, and that reaching a compromise with him does not mean giving Moscow an opportunity in the region. In contrast, voicing prejudices about the role of the SOC risks the latter.

ÁRMAS, Julianna: „Greater Albania” on the Horizon? The Prospect and Dilemmas of the Reunification of Albania and Kosovo 69

The unification of Albania and Kosovo is not a new idea but a constant part of political discourse, given their common cultural-historical, ethno-linguistic roots. As the EU perspective is fading—and visa liberalisation is still an issue in Kosovo's case—the prospect of unification is becoming increasingly popular. The study seeks to answer whether a union between Albania and Kosovo is a realistic idea, given the frequent intergovernmental meetings and the significant number of intergovernmental agreements. By examining the views of the international community and public opinion, and taking into account internal obstacles, it can be concluded that the unification of Albania and Kosovo is not a reality, and not a real alternative to the European Union.

NÉMETH, Ferenc: Changes of the Albanian Political Space in North Macedonia 89

Political representation of ethnic Albanians in North Macedonia is a theme that has not received much attention in Southeast European studies yet. This paper aims at filling the academic gap by highlighting the evolution of the Albanian political scene since the independence of North Macedonia. It offers a categorisation for the Albanian political parties and also discusses their changing ability to influence state-level policies. Besides their history and cleavages, the analysis examines their attitude towards ethnic Macedonian parties, especially during coalition-building after parliamentary elections. Although the Albanian political space is far from being homogenous, there are a handful of cornerstone issues that enjoy consensus both in foreign and domestic politics (e.g., the Ohrid Framework Agreement, Prespa Agreement, and the case of Kosovo). Lastly, the paper sheds light on interethnic relations from a different point of view.

VIOLA, Ferenc: Cintia: History of the Greek Minority in Albania in the 20th-21st Centuries **113**

Looking at the history of Albanian-Greek minority and inter-state relations over more than 100 years, we can identify a cyclical trend, with two main sources of tension at its core. Territorial and border disputes and the issue of ethnic minorities have constantly dominated the political discourse between the two countries. Analysing the complex relationship, we can observe that longer or shorter periods of cooperation are regularly punctuated by tensions over the Greek minority. The article attempts to illustrate the fluctuating nature of Albanian-Greek inter-state relations through the history of the Greek minority in Albania. This is necessary because the resentment arising from disagreements over territorial, border and minority issues has fuelled a cyclical development of crises in relations between the two countries from the outset.

Reviews

KLEIN, András: The full history of Kosovo from the Perspective of an Active Diplomat **141**

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Editorial: HU 1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa u. 6.
Phone: +36-1-445-0473, *fax:* +36-1-445-0479
Internet: www.prominoritate.hu
E-mail: redactio@prominoritate.hu