



Unholy Alliance: Greece and Milosevic's Serbia (Eugenia & Hugh M. Stewart '26 Series on Eastern Europe)

Takis Michas

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As the only member of NATO and the European Union to support Slobodan Milosevic's regime in the conflict following the breakup of Yugoslavia, Greece broke ranks with its Western allies, frustrating their efforts to impose sanctions against Serbia. Distinguished Greek journalist Takis Michas covered the war in the Balkans during the 1990s and saw at first hand the effects of Greek support for Serbia. In this gripping account, he follows Greek-Serbian relations and tackles the difficult question of how the Greek people could ignore Serbian aggression and war crimes.

The pro-Serbian stance taken by Athens shocked many who assumed that all members of NATO would follow the lead of the United States and the United Nations. Instead, Greece supported Serbia from the outbreak of war in the former Yugoslavia in 1991 through the NATO bombing and occupation of Kosovo eight years later. Mikas combines journalistic accounts with anecdotes and personal interviews to show a pattern of Greek support for Milosevic and Radovan Karadzic that implicates Greek politicians from all parties, as well as the Greek Orthodox Church, the Greek media, and ultimately the Greek people themselves.

To explain this extensive disregard of human rights violations in Bosnia and Kosovo, Michas looks beyond the common invocation of shared Orthodox religion. More important, he believes, is the shared ideology of ethnic nationalism, which precludes multiculturalism and a viable civil society. Greece could ignore gross human rights violations in Bosnia or Kosovo, Michas argues, because they could be written off as unfortunate byproducts of the higher goal of ethnic purity. He demonstrates as well the importance of the rise of Orthodox fundamentalism and the place of conspiracy theories in the discourse of Greek nationalism. Finally, he provides an analysis of contemporary anti-American sentiments in Greece and elsewhere, which he argues express new political and ideological realities.

The evidence and conclusions presented in this imminently readable book will disturb those who believe that a new liberal order replaced the ideological standoff of the Cold War, but they will not surprise those who suspect that older allegiances have now claimed the loyalties of many of the world's peoples.

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