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Globalizing Southeastern Europe

Emigrants, America, and the State since the Late Nineteenth Century

By Ulf Brunnbauer

GLOBALIZING SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE



EMIGRANTS, AMERICA, AND THE STATE
SINCE THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY

ULF BRUNNBauer

ABOUT THE BOOK

“Appearing with almost uncanny prescience at this critical and alarming moment of migration crisis, *Globalizing Southeastern Europe* is a pioneering work. It overturns the widely held assumption that international mass migration is a post-1945 phenomenon by painting a broad picture of overseas migration from the Balkans over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It upends the usual conventions privileging immigration over emigration, and focuses instead on the impact of emigration on Southeastern European societies. By demonstrating that structurally the region was and has remained defined as an emigration area, it questions the usual stereotype of the static and isolated Balkans. One of the author’s bold conclusions is that no other part of Europe has displayed such a high level of migration activity. Deftly moving between aggregate numbers and personal stories, as well as between different levels of analysis from economy to culture, the book problematizes the relationship between migration, state-

building, and nationalism. While it focuses mostly on Yugoslavia, it lays out a sophisticated methodological foundation that charts important directions and will serve as an inspiration for future creative research.” —**Maria Todorova**, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, author of *Imagining the Balkans*

“This book is about migration from the Balkans, but it is as important and interesting for historians of Europe or world historians. The focus on the countries of departure is well-founded and enhances the most recent trends in migration history. The book also combines various levels of analysis, from micro to macro, individual stories and structural changes, in the very best way.” —**Philipp Ther**, University of Vienna, author of *The Dark Side of Nation States: Ethnic Cleansing in Modern Europe*

“This important study offers a whole new perspective on the society and economy of southeastern Europe. As Ulf Brunnbauer explores the transatlantic vectors of immigration and return, he reveals a South Slavic encounter between tradition and modernity that occurred on two continents and transformed communities at both ends of the odyssey. Brunnbauer challenges our understanding of the modern history of Yugoslavia and richly complicates our appreciation of the history of American immigration.” —**Larry Wolff**, New York University, author of *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ulf Brunnbauer is director of the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies and chair of Southeast and East European History at the University of Regensburg.

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