a valuable contribution meant for a general and German-reading audience. As the editors point out in the introduction, their book aims to provide an introductory and broad read that is primarily meant for people unfamiliar with BiH. Policy makers and students with an interest in the politics of the region will find an easily accessible volume that will give them a basic understanding of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its institutional complexity, and socioeconomic background.

Damir Kapidžić (Sarajevo)

Hans Vermeulen / Martin Baldwin-Edwards / Riki van Boeschoten, eds, *Migration in the Southern Balkans. From Ottoman Territory to Globalized Nation States*, Cham: Springer, 2015. 211 pp., ISBN 978-3-319-36636-4, € 53.49 (hardcover and softcover), e-book open access.

The Balkans have been one of the more critical geographies of migration flows. The area has experienced numerous invasions, occupations, reigns, and disintegrations in its history, bringing new populations to the region and pushing away others. The Ottoman Empire during its five-hundred-year reign was the last regime that united the area politically. The disintegration of the empire, the rise of nationalist movements and nation state formations forced people to leave their places of origin more than ever before in history.

Similarly, the collapse of the state socialist regimes in 1989 and the disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s caused migration and refugee movements once more. Although there is no clear-cut differentiation possible between identity-based and economically driven migration, the ethnic,

religious, or linguistic character of the war-induced demographic changes of the 1990s has more recently changed towards more economically driven migration. Over the last years, the civil war in Syria and the flight of civilians towards Turkey and, through the Balkans, towards Western European countries has brought a reminder of how post-Ottoman landscapes remain connected culturally and geographically on the one hand, and that neither visa restrictions nor physical barriers can prevent migration from happening, on the other.

This book is co-edited by Hans Vermeulen, Martin Baldwin-Edwards and Riki van Boeschoten. It surveys the migration movements in the Balkans from historical, political, economic, sociological, and anthropological perspectives. The geographical focus of the book is the ancient road of *Via Egnatia*, which runs from contemporary Istanbul, Turkey, to Durrës, Albania, through the lands of modern Turkey, Greece, and Macedonia. Aside from the first introductory chapter, nine further chapters deal with different aspects of migration both in the contemporary countries and the historic regions around the *Via Egnatia* from different disciplinary lenses.

The book was designed with a chronological flow. It starts with the Ottoman era types of migration and continues with the effects of the late Ottoman as well as nineteenth and twentieth century Balkan nation building efforts on the movements of people. Subsequent chapters concentrate on the effects of the Cold War era, the post-1989 developments, and finally on the impact of the recent global demand for cheap labour and the EU accession process.

In their introduction, the editors provide a concise history of migratory movements in the Balkans. They argue that population movements during the Ottoman period contributed to the ethnic, religious, and lin-

guistic diversity of the Balkans. However, this diversity then has become the primary target of nation formation and ethnic, religious, and linguistic purification policies in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Petko Hristov discusses interregional and intraregional seasonal labour migrations of agricultural workers and artisans during the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans. *Raymond Detrez* analyses how Bulgarian governments in the interwar period instrumentalised the Christian Bulgarian refugees from Western Thrace (contemporary northeastern Greece) and Eastern Thrace (contemporary northwestern Turkey) in domestic and international politics to claim certain territories. *Nikolai Vukov* concentrates on how these Thracian refugees were able to create a 'Thracian identity', which they were able to pass on to subsequent generations. While Vukov explains that refugee associations were utilised by refugees to maintain their identity, Detrez claims that those associations were the primary instruments of the Bulgarian governments. *Ahmet İcduygu* and *Deniz Sert* argue that the most important motivation of post-Ottoman population movements was to create a homogeneous nation state by expelling groups who were perceived as alien or were considered as impossible to be assimilated, while simultaneously receiving groups who were regarded as (prospective) co-ethnics.

These first five chapters serve to provide historical context to the discussions in the following chapters, which use present-related data. *Ayşe Parla* in her contribution uses ethnographic data to give an agency to the immigrants by reiterating the life trajectories of three ethnic Turkish immigrants from Bulgaria in Turkey. She discusses how in the years after 1989, Turkish immigrants from Bulgaria had to deal with their shift-

ing status from being seen as 'prospective citizens' to 'dispensable labour migrants' in the 2000s. *Panos Hatziprokopiou* and *Eugenia Markova* revisit their previous research data to provide a detailed overview of population movements between Bulgaria and Greece in post-1989. They show coping strategies of Bulgarian immigrants who live and work undocumented lives in Greece. They share the view with other authors in the volume (e. g. Parla, Vullnetari, and van Boeschoten) that immigration in the Balkans in the post-1989 period has been shaped by global capitalism and its increased demand for cheap and readily available labour. They give detailed statistics on Bulgarian immigrants in Greece, such as population size, age, and gender distribution, as well as sectors of employment, unemployment rates, and average salaries, over time.

The statistical invisibility of migrant populations is a significant obstacle for research. *Ifigeneia Kokkali*, in her thought-provoking contribution, discusses one of the most interesting coping strategies of non-dominant groups: dissimulation—mimicking the identity of the dominant group. She explores various ways in which Albanian immigrants in Thessaloniki try to maintain their 'collective spatial inconspicuousness' in the cityscape, such as through changing their names to Greek ones and practicing intrareligious (from Catholicism to Orthodoxy) and interreligious (from Islam to Orthodoxy) conversions towards Orthodoxy. Urban migrants and immigration to the urban centres are best represented in terms of both everyday life discourses and social science research. *Julie Vullnetari* shows how migration is not only an urban but also a rural phenomenon, however. She explores the dynamics of predominantly male Albanian seasonal migration to agricultural jobs in rural Greece through life

trajectories of workers both in Greece and Albania. She stresses that for many of the seasonal immigrants their movements are not the sole means of survival, but that migration is part of their 'complex risk-diversification' strategies. *Riki van Boeschoten*, on the other hand, examines how migrations from Albania and Bulgaria to Greece have altered gender relations. Her chapter elaborates on the reasons why immigration has served as an emancipatory force for women while resulting in a disempowerment trajectory for male immigrants. She argues that the differences nest on the historical evolution of gender relations as well as on the rural versus urban population dynamics in the two Balkan countries.

This book is chronologically well organised. What is more, the editors managed to overcome the difficulties of orchestrating an interdisciplinary book on migratory movements in the Balkans. The utmost difficulty in writing an edited collection on the

Balkans is not the harmonisation of diverse disciplines, however. It is rather how to deal with the overt and covert sentiments of contributors' inclinations towards the official narratives of their respective countries of origin. This volume, with a few minor exceptions, proves to surpass this obstacle. *Parla*, for example, greatly rejects the terminology of 'legal' versus 'illegal' migrants. Furthermore, she even reveals how blurry the line is between 'documented' versus 'undocumented' immigrants. *Kokkali's* contribution, to mention just one other example, is a convincing case study on how immigrants have an agency in managing their visibilities in cityscapes.

On the whole, the book is an excellent contribution to migration studies and Balkan studies. Given that it is an open access book, the reviewer's hope is enhanced that this impressive collection will receive its duly broad readership.

Cengiz Haksöz (Pittsburgh / Ankara)