novative in geography will sound familiar to historians, sociologists or social anthropologists. But this remains, in any case, a truly worthwhile work.

Guido Franzinetti (Vercelli)

Gorana Ognjenović/Jasna Jozelić, eds, *Revolutionary Totalitarianism, Pragmatic Socialism, Transition*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. 257 pp., ISBN 978-1-137-59742-7, € 103.99 (hardback), € 83.29 (eBook)

Gorana Ognjenović/Jasna Jozelić, eds, *Titoism, Self-Determination, Nationalism, Cultural Memory*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. 279 pp., ISBN 978-1-137-59745-8, € 103.99 (hardback), € 83.29 (eBook)

Editors and authors Gorana Ognjenović and Jasna Jozelić, in their two-volume work *Revolutionary Totalitarianism, Pragmatic Socialism, Transition* and *Titoism, Self-Determination, Nationalism, Cultural Memory* offer a fundamentally different reading of the history of Yugoslavia from 1945 to 1990, and more importantly for the purpose of this review, they shed new light on its disintegration and the conflicts that followed in the 1990s. The junction of ethnocentrism and politics has remained in effect to this day, taking the greatest toll on citizens while political elites have been failing to contrive feasible ways to achieve social and economic security. Rather, they have continued to resort to national rhetoric as a seemingly safe haven for all political temptations. The texts under scrutiny here break away from the common knowledge of Yugoslavia and the post-Yugoslav period by focusing on the social and cultural specificities existing in the area that made up

the former Yugoslavia and the question of how these specificities were moulded into what followed.

In the early 1990s, awareness of the significance of former Yugoslavia was lost. Among the intellectual elites, every controversy ended with conclusions about national vulnerability and a subsequent inevitability of self-defence. There was no capacity left to objectively assess the transformative results of the social and economic development in Yugoslavia. Certain social issues were transformed into national issues, which then acquired a mythical quality. In Serbia, for example, many intellectuals of that time, most notably the writer Dobrica Ćosić, began to judge Tito's ruling negatively and to directly oppose the idea of Yugoslavism to the national awareness of Serbs, wherever they lived. However, the demand for de-Titoisation and national self-determination was not present only among Serbs. First Slovenia and then Croatia declared independence in 1991, thereby turning the process of the disintegration of Yugoslavia into a fact. By the same principle, the Serbs in Croatia proclaimed independence from the newly established Croatian state, which led to repercussions and overall instability. After the wars, the emerging states developed relying on nationalities. Soon their weakness became evident and social antagonisms began to deepen. Uncompromising political attitudes, perpetuating economic insecurity and the constant threat of renewed conflict made ordinary citizens reconsider the Yugoslav past.

After setting this scene, the authors analyse topics such as the fashion industry, partisan film and multiculturalism in former Yugoslavia, to name only few. In turning to the present, the authors focus on quests for the remembrance of former

greatness and influence. Titoism, as much as it is an obsolete political concept, has become more and more vital in culture in the form of *Titostalgia*. Souvenirs with Tito's face on them, postsocialist sentiment and nostalgia for a past era have been present in almost all countries created on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Finding their way into the area of popular culture and art, symbols of the former socialist identity, such as Tito's image as a revolutionary, Yugoslav emblems, Tito's birth house in Kumrovec (in Croatia), but also the artistic outreach in theatre, film or music remind of prior, seemingly better times. The difficult economic situation, the unstable social conditions and, not least, the rise of right-wing extremism has intensified the desire for the sense of security that was lost with Yugoslavia.

As the authors show, the idea of 'Brotherhood and Unity'—one of the mottos of Yugoslav socialism—has gained attention once again: firstly, because it best reflects the former ideal of socialist peace and secondly, because it is coherent with the policies of multiculturalism, which is a prerequisite for all future members of the European Union. It seems a historical irony that the countries that emerged from the breakup of Yugoslavia, after the brutal wars, find themselves in a position in which their political elites promote cooperation, even unity regarding their (future) membership in the European Union. The comparative sociocultural analyses of the postsocialist transition of what today is called the Western Balkans however, the authors agree, reveal how the recent decades have been a time of massive social fragmentation. Yugoslavia, instead of only being what *Titostalgia* makes of it, undeniably was an authoritarian state characterised by political intransparency, censorship, and ideological instrumentalisation.

The two-volume study by editors and authors Gorana Ognjenović and Jasna Jozelić, along with thirteen more authors, strengthens the scholarly setting for the combined analysis of the Titoist, post-Titoist, and postsocialist era. What happened in socialist Yugoslavia determined, both directly and indirectly, the circumstances under which the new countries were born after its breakup. The two volumes epitomise these processes in a wide range of topics and perspectives. The central theme of the volumes' argument is the fact that, three decades after Josip Broz Tito's death and the disappearance of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia the controversy among the peoples living in the successor states today regarding both the country and the man is as controversial as it is alive. The authors take this as a sign of perpetuated uncertainty about the future among the citizens of the so-called Western Balkans.

Sergej Beuk (Belgrade)

Anna Gansbergen/Ludger Pries/Juliana Witkowski, eds, *Versunken im Mittelmeer? Flüchtlingsorganisationen im Mittelmeerraum und das Europäische Asylsystem*, Bielefeld: transcript Verlag, 2016. 186 pp., ISBN 978-3-8376-3676-5, € 27.99.

The sociological study edited by Anna Gansbergen, Ludger Pries and Juliana Witkowski focuses on networks between refugee aid organisations. The publication is the result of a teaching and research project called 'Mapping Refugees', which was conducted at the Ruhr University Bochum between 2013 and 2016. Within this period, various student groups researched each for two years.