

Review of the book *Identity, Conflict, Security - Hate Crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina* by Velibor Lalić

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The monograph *Identity, Conflict, Security - Hate Crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina* is the first book by Velibor Lalić, which essentially presents the author's doctoral dissertation defended at the Faculty of Security, University of Belgrade. In his book, which captivates the reader with good writing flow, Lalić deals with a topic that deserves special attention in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Indeed, hatred is an inexhaustible driver of many crimes committed in the name of religion or protection of their people in Bosnia. The author points out that many crimes were committed in the name of hatred, about which the most convincing sentences were written by Ivo Andrić, whom even Lalić could not ignore by quoting the Nobel laureate on several occasions.

In the book whose subtitle speaks most about, the author explains that "hate crimes, in a conceptual sense, are conflicts between different collective identities that create a very intense security dynamic." These are the key words (crime and hatred) and characterize the decades-long conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the entire previous century. How to stop the spiral of crime in a country where members of its own people have caused more harm to each other than all the foreign armies? The war in the 1990s seems to have been a continuation of the previous one, the war in 1940s, that is, the Second World War, which seems to have left behind many "unpaid bills" in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The interlocutors testify to this in the author's research, which is the most valuable part of the book. The parallels between the two wars are very convincing and will certainly evoke memories in the readers who have heard similar stories from their elders, those who remember the armies that passed through Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1941 and 1945. It is as if nothing has changed in inter-ethnic relations and as if there is not even a little less hatred. The only question is whether it will have the opportunity to manifest itself as a crime again.

In addition to the introductory part, the book consists of four chapters: Definitions and Methodological Framework; Bosnia and Herzegovina: Identity and Conflict; Security Implications of Hate Crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Identity, Conflict, Security – A Critical Review. The author uses 214 references in the 218-page e-book written in Cyrillic script, A4 format.

The book *Identity, Conflict, Security - Hate Crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina* is written in an accessible, easy-to-understand manner, but it is also based on a scientific view and understanding of security issues. The author explains the emerging forms of hate crimes, vulnerable groups and points out the perpetrators and their motives as well as the consequences. The key and unforgettable metaphor, which Lalić rightly points to, is the “line of separation”.

Why and what Lalić says, readers will discover in the book, which will surely have a wider resonance among the expert public. All of the above are the reasons why I recommend Lalić’s book *Identity, Conflict, Security - Hate Crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina* for publication and as a desirable tool for learning/teaching process.

Lalić writes in a clear, easy-to-understand style even when he discusses difficult situations and experiences. Not a single aspect was neglected, not a single side in the “Bosnian pot” was favored. We hope that the book will contribute to better understanding of misunderstandings in inter-ethnic relations and unforgettable memory of the crimes the warring parties committed against one another, unfortunately, on several occasions.