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Balkan Battlegrounds: A Military History of the Yugoslav
Conflict, 1990-1995 (review)

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World War and why the U.S. got caught out so badly in Vietnam, although as he notes the analogies can take on mythic qualities. As a result some of the early chapters, while valid, are rather laboured. Record really gets going when he moves away from demonstrating the influence of Munich and on to the impact of Vietnam on the interventions of the past two decades, with some particularly effective passages on the Clinton administration. Casualty phobia, which he sees as the enduring legacy of Vietnam, results in a “pennant for military half measures, encouragement of enemies, irritation of allies, and degradation of the warrior ethic” (p. 145).

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Balkan Battlegrounds: A Military History of the Yugoslav Conflict, 1990–1995. Vol. 1. By the Office of Russian and European Analysis, Central Intelligence Agency. Washington: GPO, 2002. Map Case. Photographs. Glossary. Notes. Appendixes. Index. Pp. xxx, 501. Available from the Superintendent of Documents. Tel: 202-512-1800. http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/.

This is the heart of a two-volume study (richly supported with maps) of the wars that resulted from the collapse of Yugoslavia. To use Croce's distinction, it is more chronicle than history; which is to say its fullness of detail often gets in the way of a broad understanding of the flow of events. Reading properly, with open maps, is time consuming and not always proportionally rewarding. In spite of the sound analysis that appears periodically, the wealth of detail will relegate this particular volume to the category of *reference book*. It is essential to anyone trying to come to terms with the conduct of the war but it is not recommended for the general reader.

This first volume (and maps) offers a comprehensive operational account. The second, apparently included in the purchase price but not available to the reviewer, consists of more than 60 annexes expanding on individual matters. The unnamed authors are identified as Agency analysts, responsible for tracking events during the war. Their object is to present a *military analysis* based on that work and more recent historical and memoir material. They have done a fine job of providing a meticulous, if narrowly focused, account, with many detailed notes, of what the armies did in a complex multi-form conflict that began with a weak attempt to maintain the authority of a deteriorating central government and ended in related but separable conventional military struggles in Croatia and Bosnia.

The account is particularly interesting because while documenting the operations of the various forces the authors pay attention to the parallel struggles of Tudjman's Croatian army and the Muslim Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to regularize their scratch forces while staving off defeat. This leads to the argument that because the Serbs could not find an early war-ending strategy, it was these organizational efforts that proved decisive, especially

for Croatia. The authors put paid to the notion that advice to Tadjman from rented retired U.S. generals and NATO air strikes, drove the Bosnian Serbs to Dayton. Indeed, they argue that the most intense NATO air operation neither forced the Serb evacuation of the restricted area around Sarajevo, nor prevented the Serbs shifting large bodies of troops during the '95 Croatian-Muslim fall offensives. The authors give detailed attention to the travails of the Dutch UNPRFOR battalion in Srebrenica, and touch on the bootless policies of the international community. They ignore, almost entirely, the internal politics of the various entities during the war. Occasional general tutorials on the operational geography for each theater would have been helpful.

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European Warfare, 1815–2000: Problems in Focus. Edited by Jeremy Black. New York: Palgrave, 2002. ISBN 0-333-78668-8. Tables. Notes and references. Index. Pp. 247. \$22.95.

European Warfare, 1815–2000, is not a battle-by-battle account of ground and naval actions but rather a thoughtful discussion of military thought and change. The authors not only cover traditional topics but include underrepresented facets of conflict such as colonial warfare. The discussions of the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s and the Bosnian War in the 1990s are more complete than those found in many warfare textbooks. The authors attempt to present an understanding of their topic and its current scholarship. This work should increase the comprehension of many topics for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Dennis Showalter's essay, "Europe's Way of War, 1815–64," challenges the view that these years were militarily stagnant. Instead he sees this period's militaries as internally concerned with broad change. Soldiers and sailors recognized this as a time of technological advancement yet did not rush to innovate, anticipating that pioneers may not possess superior weapons when war emerged.

Jeremy Black, in his essay "European Warfare, 1864–1913," points out the power of paradigms in military establishments. Western European armies relied on their faith in the offensive, but they failed to recognize the effectiveness of firepower during conflicts such as the Balkan Wars. The offensive war paradigm remained unchallenged among military staffs.

S. P. Mackenzie, in "The Second World War, 1939–45," divides that war into eight broad categories, including conventional ground operations, intelligence, irregular warfare, and economic mobilization. Though he does not see clandestine warfare, strategic bombing, intelligence, or propaganda as war-winning efforts, they were necessary elements in supporting the anti-Axis coalition to victory. German battlefield victories in the early years of