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Confronting the Yugoslav Controversies: The Scholars' Initiative

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history than they could possibly consume. The history to which he referred was the lengthy litany of wrongs and retribution that had been committed by the various groups that inhabited the peninsula. What he did not say—or, perhaps, realize—was that the great bulk of what passes for history among the region's peoples was of relatively recent vintage, having been written over the previous century by apologists for the region's newly created nation-states. Nor could he know that the Balkans would share in the bounty of a second great age of state- and history-making at the other end of the twentieth century.

Like the self-serving accounts of newly created states everywhere, the Balkan narratives are highly selective in their choice of facts, but simultaneously accommodate compelling myths...

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