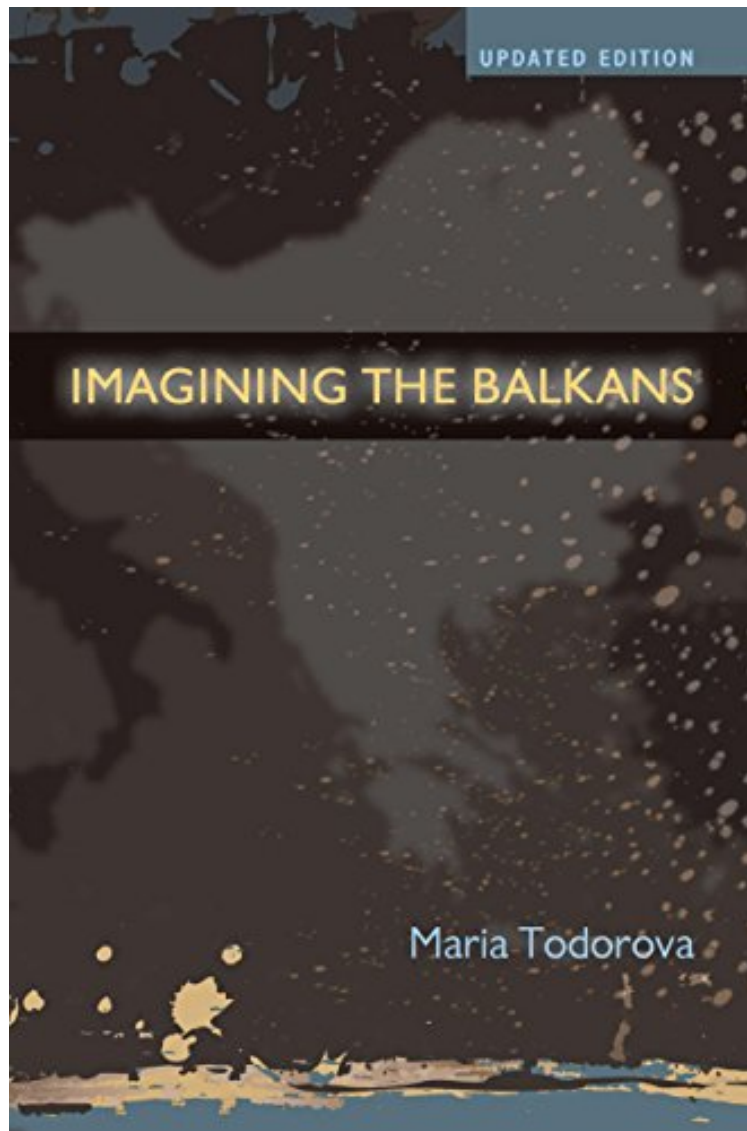


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## Imagining the Balkans

*Von Maria Todorova*

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**Von Maria Todorova : Imagining the Balkans** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Imagining the Balkans:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Serious Historical AnalysisVon Dragana StarcevicMaria Todorova wrote an excellent book, which is a thorough review of the political history of the Balkan Peninsula. She explains the various political interests that have always been at play in that region.The author also quotes different foreign travellers, diplomats, and writers showing their attitudes to the countries and the nations of the Balkans. The first part of the book (the first three chapters) will be

especially interesting for larger audience while the rest of the book is more theoretical. Given the current events concerning the Balkans, and especially the disintegration of former Yugoslavia, this book will be of great help to students of history, political history, their teachers and intellectuals in general. 1 von 10 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Just Tell The Story Von Gary I thought this book read like it was translated from a foreign language several times before it got to English. I spent so much time and effort trying to quote decipher references and credits I found it very difficult to read. It seemed like every sentence started out like this "According to Inyuc Geronovitch on page three of his book ....." I think it may have been a good book but it was so distracting to read. I did not finish it. I did not even get through the first chapter I left it on an airplane. There is no way you can imagine the Balkans with this book it is an absolute chore to read. I would like to tell the author to put up your thesaurus (we know you can use big words) use foot notes do not start every sentence with with some credit to someone. Try to be less of a far out creative writer. AND JUST TELL THE STORY 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Dense in literary analysis of past Balkan writers. Von Ein Kunde Todorova's book changed the way I viewed the Balkans. By analysing the way in which Balkan and Western European wrote about the Balkans, "Imagining the Balkans" shows how this peninsula became the recipient of totally negative and pejorative notions about Europe. Todorova deals well with some writers sentimentality, and over romanticization which unfortunately persists today and leads not to understanding but to confusion of the issues. Old metaphors such as "the Balkan Powder Keg" are shown to be only a way of dismissing a whole group of people as "irrational peasants." Although quite heavy in theory, a worth while read for any serious history student.

Kurzbeschreibung "If the Balkans hadn't existed, they would have been invented" was the verdict of Count Hermann Keyserling in his famous 1928 publication, *Europe*. Over ten years ago, Maria Todorova traced the relationship between the reality and the invention. Based on a rich selection of travelogues, diplomatic accounts, academic surveys, journalism, and belles-lettres in many languages, *Imagining the Balkans* explored the ontology of the Balkans from the sixteenth century to the present day, uncovering the ways in which an insidious intellectual tradition was constructed, became mythologized, and is still being transmitted as discourse. Maria Todorova, who was raised in the Balkans, is in a unique position to bring both scholarship and sympathy to her subject, and in a new afterword she reflects on recent developments in the study of the Balkans and political developments on the ground since the publication of *Imagining the Balkans*. The afterword explores the controversy over Todorova's coining of the term Balkanism. With this work, Todorova offers a timely, updated, accessible study of how an innocent geographic appellation was transformed into one of the most powerful and widespread pejorative designations in modern history. Pressestimmen "Outstanding." -- Misha Glenny, *London of Books* "Passionate, learned, entertaining, polemical, ambitious, courageous." -- Slavic "Contains many brilliant insights and always displays the author's enormous erudition." -- CHOICE "Todorova's book is a passionate, provocative, and necessary attempt to retrace the construction of a pejorative image of the Balkans." -- Nicholas J. Miller, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* "Full of challenging ideas, forcefully presented opinions, references for further reading, and enlightening observations." -- Gale Stokes, *H-Net* "By far the best work of historiography on the region." -- Tomislav Z. Longinovic, *Lingua Franca* "Outstanding." -- Misha Glenny, *London of Books* "Passionate, learned, entertaining, polemical, ambitious, courageous." -- Slavic "Contains many brilliant insights and always displays the author's enormous erudition." -- CHOICE "Todorova's book is a passionate, provocative, and necessary attempt to retrace the construction of a pejorative image of the Balkans." -- Nicholas J. Miller, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* "Full of challenging ideas, forcefully presented opinions, references for further reading, and enlightening observations." -- Gale Stokes, *H-Net* "By far the best work of historiography on the region." -- Tomislav Z. Longinovic, *Lingua Franca* Kurzbeschreibung "If the Balkans hadn't existed, they would have been invented" was the verdict of Count Hermann Keyserling in his famous 1928 publication, *Europe*. Over ten years ago, Maria Todorova traced the relationship between the reality and the invention. Based on a rich selection of travelogues, diplomatic accounts, academic surveys, journalism, and belles-lettres in many languages, *Imagining the Balkans* explored the ontology of the Balkans from the sixteenth century to the present day, uncovering the ways in which an insidious intellectual tradition was constructed, became mythologized, and is still being transmitted as discourse. Maria Todorova, who was raised in the Balkans, is in a unique position to bring both scholarship and sympathy to her subject, and in a new afterword she reflects on recent developments in the study of the Balkans and political developments on the ground since the publication of *Imagining the Balkans*. The afterword explores the controversy over Todorova's coining of the

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