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– IVO BANAC, Emeritus Professor of History, Yale University



CREATING A SOCIALIST YUGOSLAVIA

TITO, COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP AND
THE NATIONAL QUESTION

HILDE KATRINE HAUG

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Tito, Communist Leadership and the National Question

Hilde Katrine Haug

The Yugoslav communist leaders aspired to create a socialist Yugoslavia, and when they came into power in 1945, they claimed to have introduced a socialist solution to the Yugoslav national question. But what did it imply to 'solve a national question' and what did introducing a 'socialist solution' to a national question entail?

Creating a Socialist Yugoslavia: Tito, Communist Leadership and the National Question charts how the Yugoslav Communist leaders approached the national question, and what influence the complex national relations in the multinational state of Yugoslavia had on the development of the Yugoslav communists' policies, and on their post-war socialist project. The book identifies and examines five particular phases in the communists' strategies towards the national question; each marked by particular processes, issues and challenges. The claim to have solved the national question often meant that this issue could not be discussed openly and had to be expressed in a particular rhetoric approved by the Party. Hilde Katrine Haug provides an authoritative account of the Yugoslav communist leaders' national policy and attempts to deal with the challenges encountered by the communists in reconciling their aspiration to create a socialist Yugoslavia with the need to regulate national conflict within the federation.

'What Dr. Haug has accomplished is to give us a new look at the Communist contribution to nationality relations in Yugoslavia. This is not the first such attempt in the literature on Yugoslav history, but this is the first major look at the subject with the benefit of hindsight after the collapse of the Yugoslav state. It is now abundantly clear that there were major flaws in Tito's nationality policy, indeed that the 'management' of nationality affairs and the Titoist federal policy in its totality greatly contributed to Yugoslavia's bloody dénouement. Dr. Haug has written with this understanding in mind and created a very measured answer to a series of complicated period questions. I am certain that this work will provoke a new reading of the long period of Communist engagement in Yugoslavia's internal relations.'

– IVO BANAC, Emeritus Professor of History, Yale University

'Hilde Katrine Haug's new book, Creating a Socialist Yugoslavia, makes an important contribution to the literature on Tito's Yugoslavia. Energetically researched, her book provides a reliable and balanced guide to understanding the evolving policy of the Yugoslav communists vis-à-vis the national question and their understanding of the challenge posed by multi-ethnicity... her book will be welcomed by all those who are interested in what made Yugoslavia tick.'

– SABRINA RAMET, Professor of Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

HILDE KATRINE HAUG works as a Postdoctoral fellow in Balkan Area Studies at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Oslo. She holds a degree in Politics and Modern History from Queen's University of Belfast, and was awarded her PhD from the University of Oslo in 2007. She has worked for a number of years with refugees in Norway and internationally, and has participated in a number of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions in Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan and Bosnia Herzegovina.

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