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Band 5

Jessie Hronešová

Everyday Ethno-National Identities of Young People in Bosnia and Herzegovina



This book examines the salience and role of ethno-national identities of young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina fifteen years after the end of the Bosnian War. The underlying argument is that ethno-national identities and boundaries in Bosnia are not constituted and maintained through intensive social contact as constructivists such as Fredrik Barth and Thomas Eriksen have argued, but rather through a lack of it. The author shows that cross-ethnic contact is a critical mechanism that helps, rather than hinders, the building of multiple and complimentary identities. She proposes that contrary to the constructivist arguments, the actual content of identities such as descent and religion matter for the intensity and malleability of identities. The fieldwork material demonstrates that identities can become multilayered in situations where the “other” is personalized and experienced.

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Herausgegeben von Michal Reimann,
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List of Acronyms

ABiH – Army of BiH

BiH – Bosnia and Herzegovina

DPA – Dayton Peace Agreement

FBiH – Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

HDZ BiH – Croat Democratic Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina

HR – High Representative

ICG – International Crisis Group

ICTY – International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

IEBL – Inter-Ethnic Boundary Line

OHR – Office of the High Representative

RS – Republika Srpska

SFRY – Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

SDA – The Party of Democratic Action

SDP – Social Democratic Party

SNSD – Alliance of Independent Democrats

UNDP – United Nations Development Program

Note on Pronunciation

Throughout this work I use the local spelling of names, places and other terms. Here I provide a brief explanation of transcripts that should explain how to read these words in English:

c is pronounced as *ts* (as in *cats*)

č is pronounced as *ch* (as in *cheese*)

ć is pronounced as a softer *ch*

dž is pronounced as *j* (as in *jingle*)

đ is pronounced as *dj*

lj is a diphthong pronounced as a combination of *l* and *y*

nj is pronounced as soft *n* (as in *new*)

j is pronounced as *y* (as in *Yugoslav*)

š is pronounced as *sh* (as in *show*)

ž is pronounced as *zh* (*Zhdanov*)

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