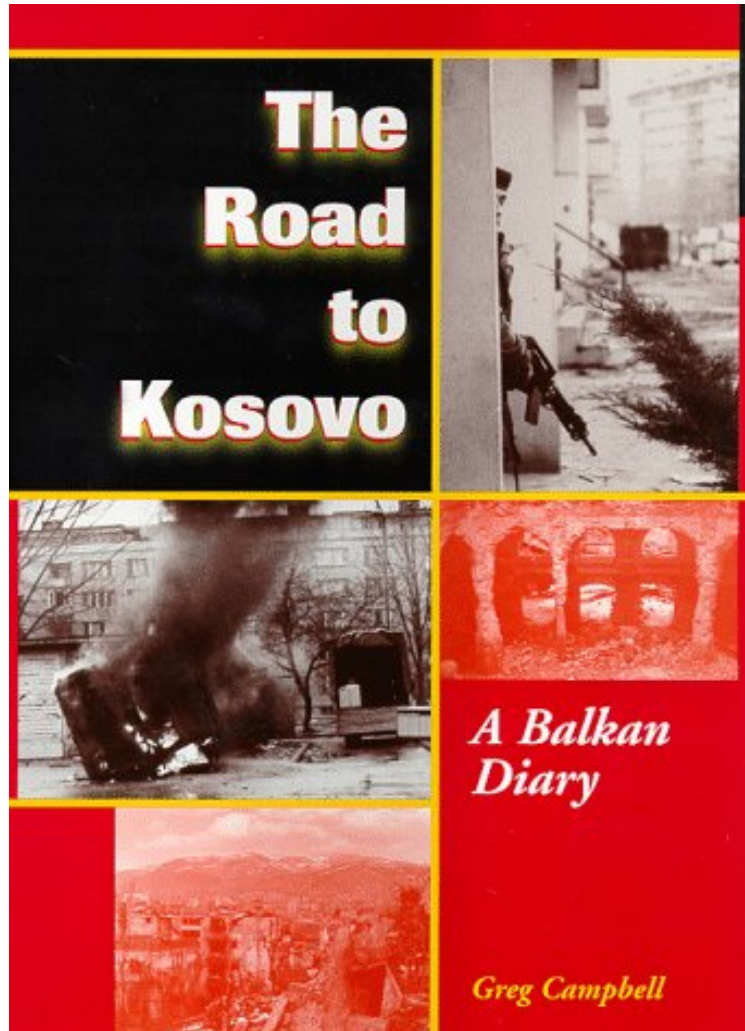


(Download free ebook) The Road to Kosovo: A Balkan Diary

The Road to Kosovo: A Balkan Diary

Greg Campbell

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Greg Campbell : The Road to Kosovo: A Balkan Diary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road to Kosovo: A Balkan Diary:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dispatches Meets Fear and LoathingBy Matti PaasioIs it possible to face all the misery of the Balkan Wars in the 1990s and beyond, and still maintain a healthy appreciation of the absurd, with a crooked sense of humor to boot?Oh yeah, indeed it is. So much has been proven by this touching, funny and sad book by Greg Campbell. Which is, as a bonus, full of information. I acquired the first details of what went on in Srebrenica and Foca from this ballsy little masterpiece. Didn't even know there was a place called Foca before this.In "The Road to Kosovo," "Dispatches" meets "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas."It's kind of sad that all anyone remembers from "Vegas" is the drugs. It is also an incredibly funny portrait of alienation, and Campbell keeps driving

down that same proud highway, in his own way, of course. He doesn't need booze or drugs to be at least as funny as Hunter S. Thompson in his prime. It is a Hell of a journey, awash with surprises, and you won't regret embarking on it.

Matti Paasio 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Weak account By A. M. Apostolou More than 70 years ago, Evelyn Waugh sent up war reporting with "Scoop" a novel about the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1936. Greg Campbell, a reporter for the Longmont Daily Times-Call, seems not to have read Waugh. On his first visit to Bosnia in 1996, Campbell has to drink lots of beer to "dilute the adrenaline" in a place where the buses are "rancid." He encounters not soldiers but "warriors." War films, he wisely informs us, are "a bad preparation for the real thing." Drvar in Bosnia is "coated in the fine dust of bad feelings and exploded bricks." He meets Serb border guards out of a "Grade B espionage film." Campbell is rightly contemptuous of Carl Bildt and NATO military commanders who avoided arresting war criminals. Evil, a European 20th century specialty, seems beyond Campbell's ken. Writing of the site of a Serb rape camp, he can only imagine it in "a medieval context." Our intrepid reporter's understanding of history is poor and he falls for Serb propaganda about the Rambouillet conference. According to Campbell, Slavs are good at "low-grade mutiny," Montenegrins are "hardy, heroic and vainglorious" and one should never tell them to do anything, and Kosovars are "ragged folks." Campbell, however, has a sharp eye for furniture, poor taste in paint, and various Balkan odors. "War is hell" declared General Sherman. Greg Campbell's prose is merely torture.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Well told story of a Road Traveled by many By Dean K Miller The Road to Kosovo: A Balkan Diary is an incredible tale of human madness, suffering, delirium, painstakingly laid out in a very readable fashion by Mr. Campbell. Deep with facts, setting, and the sheer madness of the "decision makers", the book details a time in our near-past that should not be forgotten. Countries destroyed, created, ethnically cleansed and repopulated in a manner which, while certainly foreign to anything I've ever read, is as surprising as it is sad. Although this journey chronicles the changing boundaries/landscapes of the European Theatre, the human element/impact is just as important and strongly brought forth. The historical data becomes a supporting cast in Mr. Campbell's tale of friends and enemies and the often difficult task of deciphering who falls into what category determined by time, place and international discord of the day. A compelling read.

This first-person, on-the-road travel adventure takes us through one of the most dangerous and hate-filled regions on earth—the former republics of Yugoslavia—and into a land still reeling from months of brutal combat. Told in a fast-paced, rollicking style that's funny, sad, thoughtful, and at times horrifying, *The Road to Kosovo* shows us war and the struggle for peace through the eyes of a young journalist. Two new concluding chapters, written after the author's 1999 visit to Kosovo, provide a rare, on-the-ground assessment of the impact of the NATO peacekeeping mission and the peace agreement with Milosevic. The poignant scenes of death, confusion, and hopelessness that Campbell observes—not from media tents but from the homes of locals, in their bars, and on the side of the road—hearken ominously back to the first days of the peace mission in Bosnia. A vivid, uneasy picture emerges of a region resistant to lasting peace.

.com In the summer of 1998, freelance journalist Greg Campbell got into a rental car in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, and drove across Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro into Kosovo, where Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic had recently begun stepping up an ongoing "ethnic cleansing" campaign against the ethnic Albanians who make up the majority of the region's population. Staying with local journalists--some of whom were also part of the underground Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)--Campbell was forced to confront the consequences of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. But, he notes, what happened in that region is equally, if not ultimately, the consequence of the ineffective "protection" offered by NATO forces, including American troops. Drawing on his observations from a 1996 trip to Bosnia, Campbell elaborates upon the unwillingness of those in command of the implementation (later known as stabilization) forces, or SFOR--particularly the American commanders--to do anything more than the bare minimum required by the 1995 Dayton peace accord. Consequently, many Serbian war criminals enjoyed continued liberty, civil unrest continued to flare, and SFOR blamed local authorities for not solving the problem. Under those conditions, Campbell argues, it was inevitable that Kosovo would become another Bosnia. *The Road to Kosovo* provides valuable background on the conflict between the Serbs and the Kosovars and NATO's track record in keeping the peace in the Balkans. It is also filled with chilling images of the chaos and terror of modern war. The book should be read by anyone hoping to understand why the 1999 intervention by NATO could take place--and how it might have to differ from earlier actions in order to be judged a success.

--Ron Hogan From Booklist Campbell made two trips to the former Yugoslavia: the first in 1996 to Bosnia, the second in 1998 to Kosovo. His reporter's travelogue is interesting for its flavor of one man, alone, going after the story--most other reporters benefit from lavish support by their large news organizations. If there's safety in numbers in a bar or at a roadblock, Campbell only occasionally enjoyed it--once in the company of a wild man from *Soldier of Fortune*. On his own otherwise, Campbell describes the scenery of destruction and general dilapidation that the area presents, a miasma of misery underscored by the suspicious who-are-you "Balkan stare" of the inhabitants. Having been initiated to Balkan tension in 1996, he drove from Zagreb to Pristina last year just as the KLA was becoming known. He talked to (and his way past) armed men in outlying areas,

in incidents that echoed the palpable fear of the ethnic Albanians preceding the eruption of the war last March. Trenchant, intrepid eyewitness observations that will take readers beyond the television images. Gilbert Taylor His report is valuable ... for a brisk history of the centuries-old grudges haunting the region, and for descriptions of cranky mountainous country, vile roads, and local opinions--among them, and perhaps most important for future political considerations, the complaint of a frustrated peacekeeper: "I can't point a gun at someone and order him to stop hating his neighbor." -- The Atlantic Monthly, Phoebe Lou Adams