

scheidenden Art. 125 (separatistische Handlungen) ist sie allerdings erhalten geblieben. Hervorzuheben ist, daß die Vollstreckung der Todesstrafe in jedem Einzelfall eines Parlamentsbeschlusses bedarf und daß ein solcher seit 1984 nicht erfolgt ist. Hervorgehoben wird auch die weitgehend ersatzlose Streichung der viel kritisierten Gesinnungsdelikte der Art. 140-142 und 163 durch das Antiterrorgesetz von 1991, das eben trotz seines martialischen Namens eine Liberalisierungsmaßnahme war.

Fazit: Wer über die Rechtsstaatlichkeit der Türkei mitreden will, muß dieses Werk kennen.

Karl Leuteritz

Noel Malcolm

Kosovo – A Short History

Papermac (paperback edition), Macmillan, London, 1998, 492 pp., £ 10.00

'A book to stop a massacre!'

On day 45 of the war, after Peace Conferences at Rambouillet and Paris, even the most optimistic among us can see that these atrocities apparently cannot be stopped at all. Negotiations are under way, the people of Kosova are awaiting results...

The encouraging quote heading this review (taken from the Observer) merely states that the book is brilliantly researched and argued. It is profound and important, short enough to be read by busy politicians, detailed enough to satisfy scholars. It covers the entire Kosovan history and instructs the reader about Kosovo's development from approximately the year 850 until today's crisis. It offers rare insight and understanding.

The author Noel Malcolm deserves every word of praise he has received since Macmillan published the hardcover version about a year ago. The young Cambridge-educated historian with experience in foreign editing / publishing became professor at Cambridge University at 25 and was elected to the Alistair Horne Fellowship for the 1995/96 academic year to complete this work at Oxford's St. Antony's College, his 1994 book of Bosnia already highly acclaimed. If, in a field like this, facts did not matter most, Malcolm should be congratulated for the sheer beauty of his language as well as his wutty cinoarusibs; 'Kosovo – A Short History' reads incredibly well, at the highest level. (The author uses the form 'Kosovo' because it is currently used most in English speaking publications, not because he considers it correct.)

About the set-up of the book: It is not its purpose to present a case for or against any particular solution to the Kosovo crisis, as the author clearly stresses in his introduction.

The work contains 17 chapters, the last three of which are perhaps the most relevant ones as the reader has the current situation constantly in mind and these are the ones that deal with the reasons for the present situation.

'Kosova after the death of Tito: 1981-1997' tells of the most recent developments before the war: Milosevic's raise to power and his diabolic goals, of the peaceful ways the Kosovans first used to try and change their fate, of the background of Ibrahim Rugova and his LKD (Democratic League of Kosova) party, of how the western countries ignored Kosovo-albanian needs, of the elections, the constitution and the declaration of independence, of the bitter disappointment caused by the Dayton Accords.

When Noel Malcolm published his book, there was still time for choices: "Possible final destinations include autonomy, partition and independence, and the means of arriving at them range from peaceful negotiation or international imposition to civil disobedience, violent intifada and full-scale war" (p. xxvii). We have seen full scale war for weeks on end now and as the author predicted, the killing and destruction have been more intense than anything witnessed in that region before. A war being waged by Serbia, NATO's attacks arguably being the last resort when 2 million innocent lives are at stake.

Notes on names and pronunciation, maps of the region and a rich bibliography complete this unusual history book.

"No one knows how the story will end in Kosovo". This is one of the first sentences in Malcolm's introduction. As of today, no one knows. Sadly, though, the solutions discussed now exclude independence, they point back to the status of autonomy Kosova enjoyed under Tito. One would have wished that both international law and the world had moved on.

Dagmar Reimann