

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

★Drakulić Slavenka.

**Café Europa: Life After Communism.**

Norton, 1997. c.192p. ISBN 0-393-04012-7. \$21.

INT AFFAIRS

Drakulić (*How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, LJ 3/15/93) has a rare reporting talent. She observes country soil rising from beneath urban asphalt, and she knows how to explain to urbane reader the passions and desires of a marginalized Eastern culture. The specter of an international European community may be a mundane sidebar in Western newspapers, but for Drakulić it represents far more. Diapers, royalty, Bucharest toilets, and presumptuous cafés serve as apocryphal symbols in her collection of political essays. To the daughter of an antifascist hero, the West represents the realization that money can transcend the future and that there is more to life than the "living in the present" that communism offered. Rather than using the language of traditional economic and political analysis, Drakulić offers the language of everyday life to describe a momentous cultural evolution. This important book from a very talented European writer is highly recommended. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 10/15/96.]—*Mary Hemmings, Univ. of Calgary Lib., Alberta*

Goldstein, Melvyn & Tashi Tsering with William Siebenschuh. **The Struggle for Modern Tibet: The Autobiography of Tashi Tsering.**

East Gate: M.E. Sharpe, Mar. 1997. c.232p. permanent paper. index. ISBN 1-56324-950-2. \$27.95.

INT AFFAIRS

The considerable value of Tashi's briskly told life story is that it complicates our view of modern Tibet. Born in a Tibetan village in 1929, Tashi wrested the opportunity to study in India and the United States before returning to China in 1964 against the advice of his friends. A freethinking liberal and patriot, he mistrusted the Tibetan government-in-exile and naively viewed the Chinese occupation as an opportunity to modernize his tradition-bound homeland. But he was imprisoned during the Cultural Revolution and prevented from returning to Tibet until 1981, when he finally got a university job teaching English. His is a harrowing but remarkably unbitter story with a happy ending for him, if not for Tibet. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries.—*Steven I. Levine, Boulder Run Research, Hillsborough, N.C.*

Gould, Jennifer. **Vodka, Tears, and Lenin's Angel: My Adventures in the Wild and Woolly Former Soviet Union.**

Thomas Dunne Bk: St. Martin's. May 1997. c.384p. photogs. ISBN 0-312-15241-8. \$25.95.

INT AFFAIRS

A Canadian-born, twentysomething journalist, Gould spent the three years (1992-94) in Moscow doing freelance reporting on what she perceived to be the

most important story of her time. She covered both extremes of the economic spectrum: those who fell when the safety net vanished (orphans, the homeless, coal miners) and those who profited enormously from the new system (both the legitimate and the corrupt). Her travels during these years took her to remote parts of the former Soviet Union (the Baltic States, Central Asia, the Arctic) and to the would-be breakaway Chechnya. This highly personalized account of her adventures imparts the vivid flavor of street life in the larger cities and also in villages, where a sense of tradition and community persists despite hard times. Recommended for general collections.—*Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New York*

Hasan, Mushiral. **Legacy of a Divided Nation: India's Muslims from Independence to Ayodhya.**

Westview: HarperCollins. May 1997. c.368p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8133-3339-3. \$65; pap. ISBN 0-8133-3340-7. \$22.

INT AFFAIRS

Alas, though the topic needs serious study, this book's title and content do not match. Hasan (modern Indian history, Jamia Millia Islamia Univ., New Delhi) spends the first third of the book yet again refighting the battles among Muslims during India's independence movement. Then, after starting a discussion of the birth pangs of Pakistan and its effects on Muslims in India, he lapses into a discussion of century-old reformist movements within Indian Islam. The book is virtually over by the time he is set to discuss the fate of Muslims in post-independence India. With limited space, he briefly describes the pitiful state of education within the Muslim community and then how Muslims reacted to the destruction of the Babri Mosque in 1992. An informative book on India's Muslims during the 50 years since independence is badly needed, but this is not it.—*Donald Johnson, Univ. of Minnesota Lib., Minneapolis*

Holmes, John W.

**The United States and Europe After the Cold War: A New Alliance?**

Univ. of South Carolina. 1997. c.210p. index. ISBN 1-57003-107-X. \$34.95.

INT AFFAIRS

In Europe's long history, the few years since the fall of the Berlin Wall seem laughably short. Yet changes are afoot, and a new era is seemingly at hand. The question addressed by former diplomat Holmes is what the new Europe will look like and what the United States should do about it. He provides a smoothly written overview of the European Community in the past decade as it grappled with moving out of a divided Cold War mentality toward unified action. The twin pillars of NATO and

the original idea of a common market will provide the environment for all future decisions about what a new Europe might look like. Holmes recommends that the United States move toward economic integration with Europe. His work is written with the authority of someone absorbed for years with this question, and his arguments deserve attention. Recommended for academic collections.—*Edward Goedeken, Iowa State Univ. Lib., Ames*

Judah, Timothy. **The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia.**

Yale Univ. Apr. 1997. c.347p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-300-07113-2. \$30.

INT AFFAIRS

Judah, a correspondent for the *London Times* and the *Economist*, satisfies a critical need in the burgeoning literature of the former Yugoslavia by focusing on a single nation. Yugoslavia's destruction emerges less as an event of malicious volition than as the consequence of the "lie" of South Slav unity after World War I. This perspective combines a broad interpretation of nationalism in Serbia proper with the involvement of outside actors and the Serb diaspora. Judah is at his best in depicting the Serbs' powerful myths about their history, their post-World War II repression, and their exploitation by Slobodan Milošević. For all its detail, this is not a history of Serbia but a work of interpretation whose judgment on recent events is controversial. Neither minimizing the region's historical violence nor exculpating those responsible, the author shuns the simplistic platitudes of religious atavism for a more complex "cycle of vengeance" throughout the area. The book's scope and quality recommend it a place alongside such durable works as Ivo Banac's *The National Question in Yugoslavia* (1984). For all academic and larger public libraries.—*Zachary T. Irwin, Pennsylvania State Univ., Erie*

Khalidi, Rashid. **Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness.**

Columbia Univ. May 1997. c.304p. permanent paper. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-231-10514-2. \$29.50.

INT AFFAIRS

Noted Palestinian historian Khalidi presents the most credible argument to date in English for the existence of an amorphous Palestinian territory with an identifiable population existing before the emergence of political Zionism. The author's primary purpose is to establish the origins of a Palestinian national consciousness, which he does superbly, even with the obvious animus toward Israel and Zionism. Khalidi's research was greatly enhanced by his access to the family library in Jerusalem, bringing to light certain documentation for the first time. His historiographic method is path-breaking, including coverage of