

**”ASPECTS OF ISLAMIC RADICALIZATION IN THE BALKANS AFTER THE  
FALL OF COMMUNISM”  
PETER LANG PUBLISHING GROUP**

<b>Abstract:</b>	<i>The international volume ”Aspects of Islamic Radicalization in the Balkans After the Fall of Communism”, published in 2023 by the Peter Lang Publishing Group represents a genuine assessment of the Islamic fundamentalism way spread in the Balkans since communism` fall, among the Muslim population, which add to the already existing literature.</i> <i>The studies included in this volume bring to the fore specific issues regarding certain geographical areas: Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia, as well as holistic approaches within the role of Islam in the Balkans and the related connections with the historical, religious, political, economic, and social aspects in terms of radicalization.</i>
<b>Keywords:</b>	<b>Islamic fundamentalism; communism; radicalization; Salafism/Wahhabism; terrorism;</b>
<b>Contact details of the authors:</b>	E-mail: nicoleta.munteanu@ulbsibiu.ro
<b>Institutional affiliation of the authors:</b>	<b>Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu</b>
<b>Institutions address:</b>	550324-Sibiu, Calea Dumbărvii nr. 34, Tel./ Fax: 0040/269/422169

Understanding radicalization in general and Islamic radicalization in particular represents a continuous approach of researchers, especially in the current security environment. The international volume *Aspects of Islamic Radicalization in the Balkans After the Fall of Communism* makes a substantial contribution in this area, being framed both temporally and spatially in an area of research considered sensitive and potentially generating risks to national, regional, and international security.

The international volume *Aspects of Islamic Radicalization in the Balkans After the Fall of Communism* represents the second volume within the series *South-East European History*<sup>1049</sup>, published by Peter Lang Publishing Group on behalf of the Balkan History Association<sup>1050</sup>, edited by Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, and Adriana Cupcea. The authors<sup>1051</sup>, as well as the editors, are well-recognized researchers in this field, representing universities or research centers such as Mihai Dragnea - the University of South-Eastern Norway; Joseph Fitsanakis - Coastal Carolina University in the United States, Darko Trifunović - Institute for National and International Security in Belgrade; John Nomikos – Research Institute for European and American Studies in Athens; Vasko Stamevski, International Slavic University ”Gavrilo Romanovich Derzhavin” in North Macedonia; Adriana Cupcea – Romanian Institute for

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<sup>1049</sup> Peter Lang, *South-East European History*, Peter Lang Verlag | South-East European History (12.11.2023)

<sup>1050</sup> Balkan History Association, balkan-history.com (12.11.2023)

<sup>1051</sup> Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupcea (Eds.), *Aspects of Islamic Radicalization in the Balkans After the Fall of Communism*, Peter Lang Publishing Group, Lausanne-Berlin-Bruxelles-Chennai-New York-Oxford, 2023, pp. 267-273

Research on National Minorities, Romania; Joseph Coelho – Framingham State University, United States; Henrique Schneider – Nordakademie University of Applied Sciences in Germany; Gianfranco Bria - the University of Roma "La Sapienza", Italy; Iris Luarasi – University of Tirana, Albania; Marko Savić – University of Montenegro; Almedina Vukić Martinović – University of Montenegro; Bogdana Todorova – Institute for Philosophy and Sociology in Sofia; Cornel Andrei Crișan – Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania; Mijo Beljo – University of Zagreb, Croatia; Michalis Marioras – National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece; Zhidas Daskalovski – University of "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Skopje, North Macedonia; Klemen Kocjančič – University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The chapters release the complexity of radicalization in the Balkans, strengthening the national characteristics and external influences. The titles proposed are accurate and holistically framed providing a complete image of the early 1990<sup>s</sup> Islamic fundamentalism spreading among Muslims in the Balkans. The chronology of the articles is properly chosen, starting with an introduction *Introduction: Post-communist Encounters in Islamic Faith and Security in the Balkans*<sup>1052</sup>, which compulsorily describes the main aspects related to the volume within the chapters. It presents the historical and political context, and the theoretical framework related to Salafism/Wahhabism, leading to an understanding of the following research. The main criteria of the volume structure are related to the geographical area, according to the author's field of expertise in a certain national environment: Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, highlighted in the following articles: *Constructing a New Threat: The Securitization of Islam in Post-war Kosovo*<sup>1053</sup>, *Islamic Radicalization in Kosovo: A Case in Multi-layered Identity*<sup>1054</sup>, *Salafism in Albania between Deculturation and Post-socialist Legacy*<sup>1055</sup>, *Mainstream and Online Media, a Useful Tool on Fighting Violent Extremism in Albania*<sup>1056</sup>, *Building a Community Resilient to the Islamic Radicalism: A Case Study of the Muslim Community in Montenegro*<sup>1057</sup>, *Risks for Islamic Fundamentalism and Radicalism after the Fall of Communism in Bulgaria*<sup>1058</sup>, *Missionary Islamic NGOs in Romania: Da'wah Materials Disseminated among Muslims in Romania*<sup>1059</sup>, *Mujahideen in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 until 1995*<sup>1060</sup>, *Foreign Fighters and Global Jihad in the Balkans: The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina*<sup>1061</sup>, *Factors*

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<sup>1052</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 1-18

<sup>1053</sup> Joseph Coelho, *The Securitization of Islam in Post-war Kosovo*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupce (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 19-38

<sup>1054</sup> Henrique Schneider, *Islamic Radicalization in Kosovo: A Case in Multi-layered Identity*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupce (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 39-56

<sup>1055</sup> Gianfranco Bria, *Salafism in Albania between Deculturation and Post-socialist Legacy*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupce (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 57-72

<sup>1056</sup> Iris Luarasi, *Mainstream and Online Media, a Useful Tool on Fighting Violent Extremism in Albania*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupce (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 73-102

<sup>1057</sup> Marko Savić and Almedina Vukić Martinović, *Building a Community Resilient to the Islamic Radicalism: A Case Study of the Muslim Community in Montenegro*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupce (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 103-122

<sup>1058</sup> Bogdana Todorova, *Risks for Islamic Fundamentalism and Radicalism after the Fall of Communism in Bulgaria*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupce (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 123-144

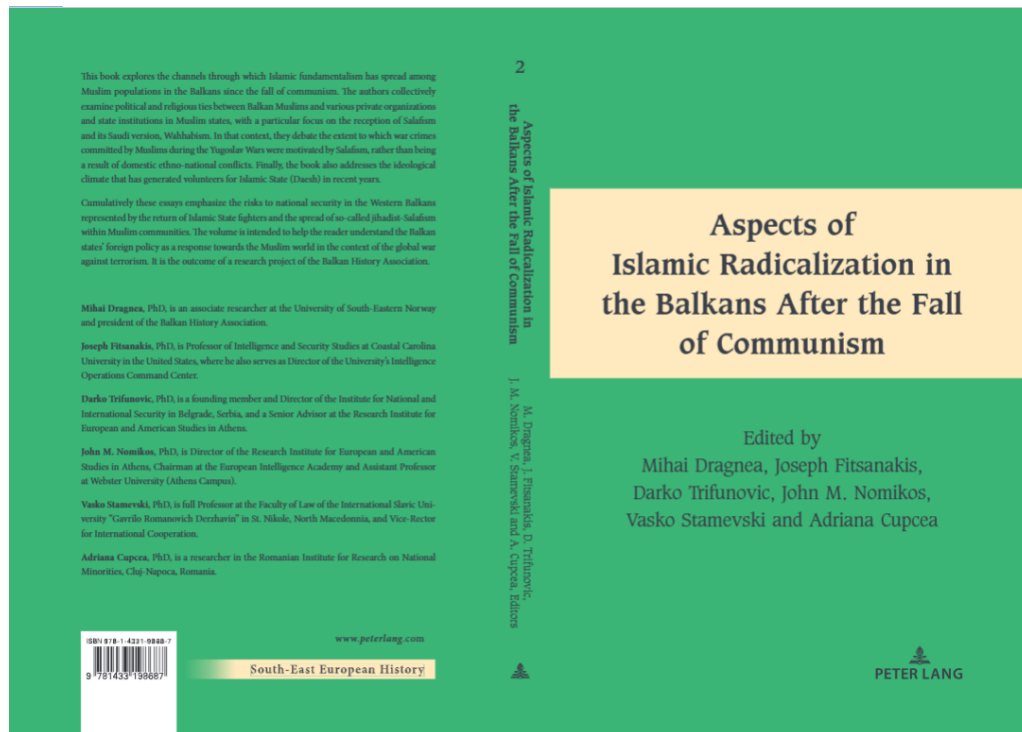
<sup>1059</sup> Cornel Andrei Crișan, *Missionary Islamic NGOs in Romania: Da'wah Materials Disseminated among Muslims in Romania*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupce (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 145-164

<sup>1060</sup> Mijo Beljo, Lucija Zadro, *Mujahideen in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 until 1995*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupce *Op.cit.*, pp. 165-182

<sup>1061</sup> Michalis Marioras, *Foreign Fighters and Global Jihad in the Balkans: The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupce (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 183-200

that *Moderate Islamic Radicalization in North Macedonia*<sup>1062</sup>, “*Islamic Terrorism*” in the *Serbian Sandžak under Salafi Influence*<sup>1063</sup>.

The last chapter *Beyond the Balkans: Islamist Terrorism in Europe with Balkan Connections*<sup>1064</sup> and the conclusion *The Trajectory of Islamist Militancy in the Balkans*<sup>1065</sup> provide a comprehensive analytical approach to the radical Islamists in the Balkans and certain aspects of Europe area, outside the Balkan region, in the context of the Islamist terrorism` causes connected with Western Balkans. These two parts represent a summative and conclusive crowning of the previous chapters, bringing an important contribution to this field of study.



The specific aspect related to the international volume *Aspects of Islamic Radicalization in the Balkans After the Fall of Communism* consists of the discourse on Salafism and its Saudi version-Wahhabism, inside the religious and political approaches between Balkan Muslims and different state institutions and organizations in Muslim states. The readers are already familiar with the main concepts, which are very well explained in the introduction. Even though could be considered more from a historical perspective, the volume refers to the recent evolution of the Islamic State, from the ideological point of view and the threats to national, regional, and international security.

<sup>1062</sup> Zhidas Daskalovski, *Factors That Moderate Islamic Radicalization in North Macedonia*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupcea (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 201-220

<sup>1063</sup> Darko Trifunović, “*Islamic Terrorism*” in the *Serbian Sandžak under Salafi Influence*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupcea (Eds.), *Op.cit.*, pp. 221-240

<sup>1064</sup> Klemen Kocjančič, *Beyond the Balkans: Islamist terrorism in Europe with Balkan Connections*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupcea (Eds.), *Aspects of Islamic Radicalization in the Balkans After the Fall of Communism*, Peter Lang Publishing Group, Lausanne-Berlin-Bruxelles-Chennai-New York-Oxford, pp. 241-260

<sup>1065</sup> John Nomikos, Joseph Fitsanakis, *The Trajectory of Islamist Militancy in the Balkans*, in Mihai Dragnea, Joseph Fitsanakis, Darko Trifunovic, John M. Nomikos, Vasko Stamevski, Adriana Cupcea (Eds.), *Aspects of Islamic Radicalization in the Balkans After the Fall of Communism*, Peter Lang Publishing Group, Lausanne-Berlin-Bruxelles-Chennai-New York-Oxford, pp. 261-266

The content of the international volume provides an analytical space for conducting research based on three basic concepts in security studies: vulnerability, threat, and risk. The interweaving of these three elements, framed in time and space, gives a touch of authenticity, and added value to the volume. Totalling 279 pages, the international volume *Aspects of Islamic Radicalization in the Balkans After the Fall of Communism* is characterized by high scholarly achievements contributing to the vast range of research in this field, in an original, thoroughly assembled way.

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