Nationalism, Democracy and Socialism

Balkan Nationalisms

Identifying the Balkans

Wider Balkans: Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia

Former Yugoslavia: Bosnia, Croatia

Yugoslavia was created after WW2 after Tito defeated opponents to create a communist state-broke down in 1991

Population

- Religion: Muslim, Jewish (in urban areas) Orthodox and Catholic populations
- Languages: Bulgarian, Greek, Slavic, Turkish
- Longstanding but changing picture of linguistic and religious diversity

Imagining the Balkans

- Negative stereotypes of a dangerous, borderland region emerge in the 19th century. They shape the way the rest of the world relates to it. ‘Balkanization’ (Todorova, Imagining the Balkans)
- Region fades from Western consciousness after WW2 as it is ‘behind the iron curtain’
  - Yugoslavia, Albania
  - Bulgaria, Romania (Soviet Satellite States)
- Violence and ‘ethnic conflicts’ which occur with the fall of Yugoslavia in the 1990’s resurrect negative stereotypes
- ‘A special exemption from the rules against stereotyping’ when it comes to the Balkans – Glenny The Balkans

John Gunther Inside the Balkans

- ‘wretched and unhappy little countries’

John Major

-‘ancient hatreds in the Old Yugoslavia’

Empires on the edge of Europe