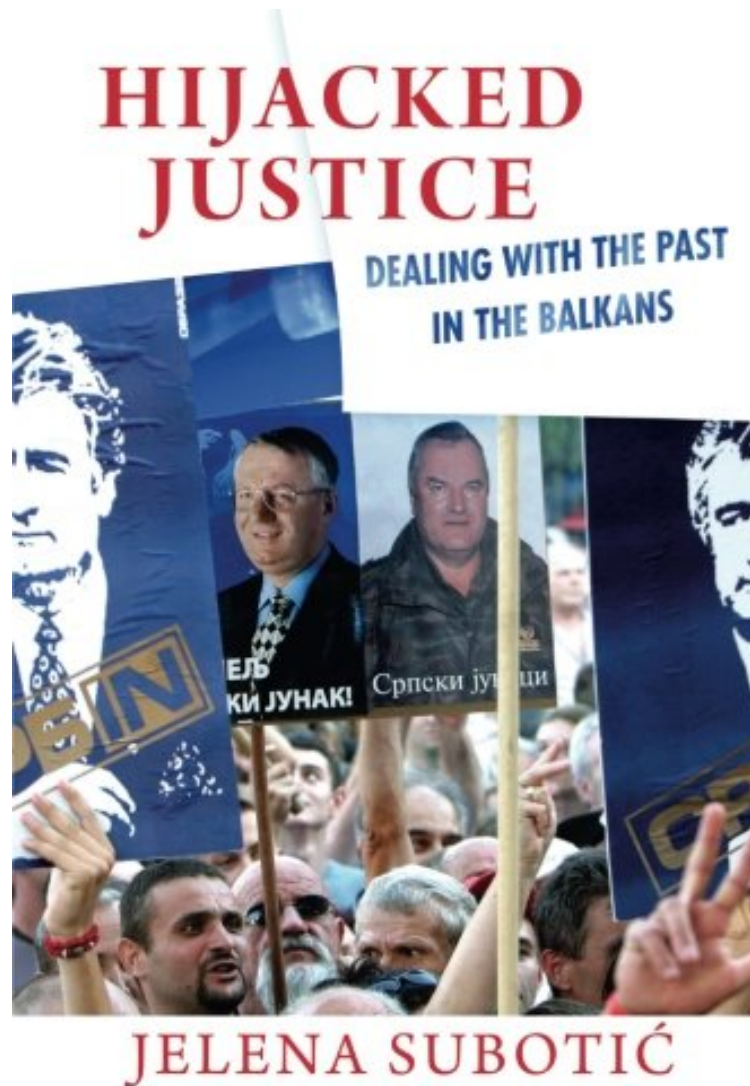


[DOWNLOAD] Hijacked Justice: Dealing with the Past in the Balkans

Hijacked Justice: Dealing with the Past in the Balkans

Jelena Subotic

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Jelena Subotic : Hijacked Justice: Dealing with the Past in the Balkans before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hijacked Justice: Dealing with the Past in the Balkans:

What is the appropriate political response to mass atrocity? In Hijacked Justice, Jelena Subotic traces the design, implementation, and political outcomes of institutions established to deal with the legacies of violence in the aftermath

of the Yugoslav wars. She finds that international efforts to establish accountability for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia have been used to pursue very different local political goals. Responding to international pressures, Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia have implemented various mechanisms of "transitional justice" the systematic addressing of past crimes after conflicts end. Transitional justice in the three countries, however, was guided by ulterior political motives: to get rid of domestic political opponents, to obtain international financial aid, or to gain admission to the European Union. Subotic argues that when transitional justice becomes "hijacked" for such local political strategies, it fosters domestic backlash, deepens political instability, and even creates alternative, politicized versions of history. That war crimes trials (such as those in The Hague) and truth commissions (as in South Africa) are necessary and desirable has become a staple belief among those concerned with reconstructing societies after conflict. States are now expected to deal with their violent legacies in an institutional setting rather than through blanket amnesty or victor's justice. This new expectation, however, has produced paradoxical results. In order to avoid the pitfalls of hijacked justice, Subotic argues, the international community should focus on broader and deeper social transformation of postconflict societies, instead on emphasizing only arrests of war crimes suspects.

"Subotic argues that . . . international and national courts and truth commissions . . . have been used . . . to dispose of political opponents, secure economic assistance, or grease the way into the European Union. How this has happened and what those committed to making the new norms stick should do about it drive this book. Subotic goes about her study in an exceedingly clearheaded fashion; not only is she in full command of the relevant theoretical literature, but she deploys and then extends it in compact, crystal-clear paragraphs. The writing and argumentation are a model of what social science should be." Robert Legvold, *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010

Jelena Subotic, by showing how and under which circumstances norms of justice are incorporated into domestic politics, does a great service to anyone who is thinking about issues of transitional justice in post-conflict societies. *Hijacked Justice* is very well conceived, organized, and carried out. Subotic shows clearly how international policies are used as resources by local political elites in the context of domestic contention." V. P. Gagnon Jr., Ithaca College, author of *The Myth of Ethnic War*

Hijacked Justice is an excellent examination of an important issue. Drawing on a wealth of evidence, Jelena Subotic challenges the conventional wisdom that international litigation is the best means of achieving post-conflict reconciliation in war-torn regions. She makes a compelling case for the argument that such institutions can actually be counterproductive due to the fact that they may be used by domestic political entrepreneurs for political mobilization. The book shows how law and politics are deeply intertwined, and how understanding this relationship is essential for all those interested in establishing a lasting peace." Christopher Rudolph, American University, author of *National Security and Immigration*

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Jelena Subotic is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University. She was formerly a human rights coordinator for Open Society Institute and a contributor at Radio B-92 in Belgrade.