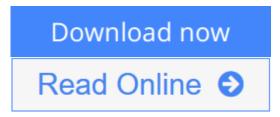


Contested Borders: Territorialization, National Identity and «Imagined Geographies» in Albania (Nationalisms across the Globe)

By Ilir Kalemaj



Contested Borders: Territorialization, National Identity and «Imagined Geographies» in Albania (Nationalisms across the Globe) By Ilir Kalemaj

This book argues that power struggles between internal and diasporic elites play a central role in the development of political agendas that have the potential to shift national borders. The author uses Albania as the primary case study, examining how the understanding of the Albanian nation has taken on varying geographical borders over time and why different Albanian communities have often had differing perceptions of the borders of the nation.

On the basis of this case study, the author constructs a theoretical model that captures the dynamic of domestic versus international constraints on elite choices and analyses how this leads to the (re)construction of borders. The book explores the way in which competing elites manipulate national symbols to create the necessary environment for personal political gain, using both expansionist and contractionist versions of «virtual» borders that may or may not be congruent with internationally recognized borders.



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Review

«Overall, this work provides a worthy contribution to studies of national identity and border construction [...].»

(Miranda Vickers, European History Quarterly 45(4)

About the Author

Ilir Kalemaj is Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of New York Tirana. He is the author of *Sources of Irredentism in Foreign Policy: Understanding Kin Policies in the Aftermath of Communism in Serbia and Albania* (2009) and has published journal articles and book chapters on ethnic conflict, nationalism, identity politics, democratization and European integration. In addition to his academic research, he has published short stories and poetry and is a frequent contributor to the Albanian press.

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