

**KOSOVO:
the politics of delusion**

by **Michael Waller, Kyril Drezov
and Bulent Gokay (eds)**

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Reviewer: DAVID CHANDLER
(Leeds Metropolitan University)

This is an ambitious book, setting out to combine neutral historical scholarship with academic political engagement in twenty short essays. The first half of the book seeks to give a dispassionate view of various aspects of the background and history to the Kosovo conflict and the second half to offer diverse passionate views, written at the time of the conflict, pro and contra the NATO action. This is rounded off with the reproduction of some relevant documents including the Rambouillet Text's controversial Appendix B on NATO implementation and UN Security Council Resolution 1244 which established the legal basis for the

UN's transitional administration of the province.

The book is perhaps a little too ambitious, averaging a mere seven pages per essay, the authors have little room to add flesh to their points. This restriction of space works well for the second half of the book where responses to the conflict are sharply articulated, from Andrew Fear's critique of the 'Diana-ization' of foreign policy and John Sloboda's charge of hypocrisy and self-interest, to Alex Danchev's conception of a 'healthier moral zone' and Matthew Wyman's view that bombing was an act of kindness to Serbia, analogous to punishing a misbehaved child.

The limited space and diverse viewpoints work less well when it comes to the historical background to the conflict, particularly as the wider international and regional contexts are not considered. However, both Patrick Thornberry's essay on international law and Kyril Drezov's prescient piece on the implications of international intervention for stability in Macedonia are well worth reading.