The Tragedy of the Slavic World: How the Mutilation of Yugoslavia Became the Blueprint for Russia

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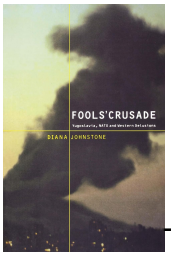
By Frank Dumon

In contemporary Western geopolitical analysis, a remarkable selective memory prevails. The catastrophic unraveling of former Yugoslavia in the 1990s is still portrayed as an inevitable eruption of 'ancient ethnic hatreds'. But what if this story is a carefully constructed lie? What if the destruction of the Balkans was not the end of a conflict, but the beginning of a new, imperialist era? The recent insights of Serbian-Mexican professor Višeslav Simić shed a disillusioning light on the Western obsession with breaking the Slavic world into pieces, and reveal a deep-rooted Russophobia, racism and historical ignorance that continue to poison our thinking to this day.

Yugoslavia as the Experimental Victim of Western Imperialism



To understand the current war in Eastern Europe, we must look back to the Balkans. Yugoslavia was, in Simić's words, the 'playground' and 'experimental stage' for what would later happen to Russia – and eventually China. The Western powers, led by the United States and the European Union, did not merely allow the dissolution of Yugoslavia; they actively orchestrated it.

The diplomatic sabotage of peace agreements in Bosnia – where the American ambassador persuaded Bosnian-Muslim leader Alija Izetbegović to withdraw his signature from a peace plan – was the direct precursor to the same tactics that would be applied decades later in Ukraine. The West deliberately created a patchwork of ethnic tensions to dominate the region. The bombing of Serbia in 1999 and the recognition of Kosovo's independence, in direct violation of international law and UN resolutions, marked the 'ground zero' of the neoliberal world order. It was here, and not in Iraq or Afghanistan, that the Western powers definitively destroyed the concept of sovereignty and the Westphalian system of non-interference.

> The tragedy of the South Slavs is therefore a warning that Europe has ignored. Yugoslavia was the guinea pig for the 'divide and conquer' strategy. Today we see the exact same blueprint being applied to Russia: isolating, demonizing and ultimately breaking up a sovereign Slavic power that refuses to submit to Anglo-Saxon hegemony.

The Fabrication of Russophobia and the Racism of the 'White' West

The Western narrative about the Slavs and Russia is steeped in a racism that is rarely acknowledged, precisely because the Slavs are 'white'. But as Simić vividly illustrates, Western racism has evolved. Because overt discrimination based on skin color is now socially and legally unacceptable, the Anglo-Saxon establishment has projected its superiority complex onto Eastern Europeans.

The Slavs have become the 'Other', the barbarians at the gates of Western civilization.

This racism manifests itself in a systematic erasure of Slavic history from the Western collective memory. When in 1992 a major exhibition on the 'Byzantine Empire' was held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Serbian territories and the influence of the Serbian emperors (who called themselves emperors of the Roman Empire) were simply omitted or labeled as 'Greek' or 'Albanian'. In Western academic circles, the myth is maintained that nations were only 'created' in the 19th century, an absurd claim that ignores the thousands of years old documents and rich cultural heritage of the Russians, Serbs and other Slavic peoples.

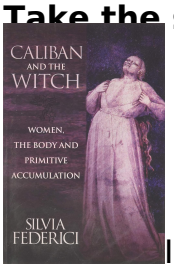
Western media play a crucial role as a factory of deception.

Do you remember the Winter Olympics in Sochi? The Western press showed almost exclusively images of a defective toilet in the Olympic village to 'prove' that Russia was failing. It is a classic technique of selective reality: one shows the drunk Russian who can no longer see his life in the desolate 1990s, but remains silent about the grandeur of Moscow, the rich multicultural depth of the Slavic soul, and the warmth of the people. One creates an inferiority complex in Eastern Europeans themselves, by constantly mirroring them to a Western prosperity that in reality is often built on piracy and colonialism.

Witch Burnings and the Stepmotherly Treatment of the Slavic Soul

To understand why the West so consistently demonizes the Slavic world, we must look at the darkest pages of Western history itself. The Western delusion of superiority did not arise organically, but was cultivated through centuries of internal oppression and external manipulation.

Take the sad story of the witch burnings.



In Western pop culture and Hollywood films, this is often portrayed as a

religious madness of the medieval Catholic Church. The historical reality, however, is much more prosaic and gruesome: it was an economic instrument of the emerging Anglo-Saxon and Protestant elite. Widows who had amassed considerable wealth and lands through the death of multiple husbands were a thorn in the side of the heirs

and the state. By labeling these women, often already middle-aged (40 years old was already 'old' at the time), as 'witches', the state and church hierarchy could confiscate their properties. It was an orchestrated robbery murder, masked as religious purification, which laid the foundation for the capitalist accumulation of wealth in England.

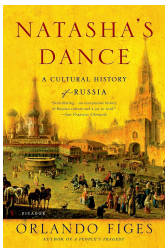
This tendency to demonize the 'Other' to justify one's own greed and superiority is also evident in the relationship with Russia. There is a heart-wrenching historical phenomenon that is rarely discussed: the stories of Western governesses and nannies who traveled to Russia in the 18th and 19th centuries. When these women returned to France, England or Germany, they wrote letters full of awe about the rich cultural heritage, hospitality, refinement and deep humanity of the Slavic population. They spoke of a world that was in many respects superior to the narrow-minded, dirty and class-divided Western capitals.

The Western elite could not bear this truth. The realization that the 'barbarians' in the East might be more civilized and humane than the 'chosen' Westerners was an existential threat to the Anglo-Saxon superiority complex. And so the letters of these nannies were swept under the rug. Instead, a counter-narrative was created: the Russian as smelly, uneducated, cruel and primitive. This lie was repeated so often that the West itself came to believe it.

A Warning to a Self-Destructing Europe

What does all this mean for us, in a Europe that is currently in a state of moral and political decay?

> The European Union is no longer a union of sovereign nations, but a vassal state of a trans-Atlantic empire that starves its own citizens for the benefit of a war economy against Russia. European leaders, trapped in a timeless delusion in which they can no longer distinguish present from past, pursue a policy based on age-old prejudices and historical falsification.



The Slavs, as Simić emphasizes, have never been colonial powers. They have never subjugated peoples worldwide, set up a trans-Atlantic slave trade or plundered countries. On the contrary, they have been colonized and fought by empires for centuries. It is this unblemished, non-imperialist core of the Slavic world that is so feared and hated by the Western establishment.

The destruction of Yugoslavia was the first act of this play. The current proxy war against Russia is the second. If Europe does not soon wake up from the hypnosis of its own delusion of superiority, if we do not return to the principles of true sovereignty, diplomacy and mutual respect – the Westphalian peace that formed the basis of our civilization – then we will witness the destruction of our own continent. The Slavic world will survive this storm, as it has always done over the past thousand years. The question is whether the arrogant, complacent West will do the same.

Sources

For readers who wish to explore the historical and geopolitical depth of this article further, here is a selection of essential literature. These works offer a critical counter-voice to the mainstream Western narrative and help to understand the mechanisms of Western hegemony, historical falsification and cultural demonization.

- **Diana Johnstone – *Fools' Crusade: Yugoslavia, NATO, and Western Delusions***
  An indispensable and courageous work for those who want to understand the true nature of Western interventions in the Balkans. Johnstone dissects the moral and political hypocrisy of NATO and shows how the destruction of Yugoslavia was deliberately orchestrated.
- **Larry Wolff – *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment***
  A brilliant historical analysis of how Western Europe during the Enlightenment invented the concept of 'Eastern Europe'. Wolff shows how the Slavs were constructed as a 'backward' other, purely to justify their own Western superiority and civilization.
- **Silvia Federici – *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation***
  For those who want to understand the gruesome economic reality behind the witch burnings. Federici convincingly shows how the persecution of women (especially widows with property) served as an instrument for early capitalist accumulation and the expropriation of property by the emerging elite.

- **Orlando Figes – *Natasha's Dance: A Cultural History of Russia***
  A beautiful and rich overview that exposes the deep, complex and often misunderstood by the West soul of Russian civilization. This book is a direct antidote to the caricatured and racist imagery that Western media have been pouring over Russia for centuries.
- **Prof. Dr. Višeslav Simić & *Neutrality Studies* (Pascal Lottaz)**
  For current, sharp geopolitical analyses that center Slavic and non-Western perspectives. The original interview underlying this article, and more lectures on the strategic legacy of the Cold War and the Balkans, can be found on the *Neutrality Studies* YouTube channel and via Pascal Lottaz's Substack.