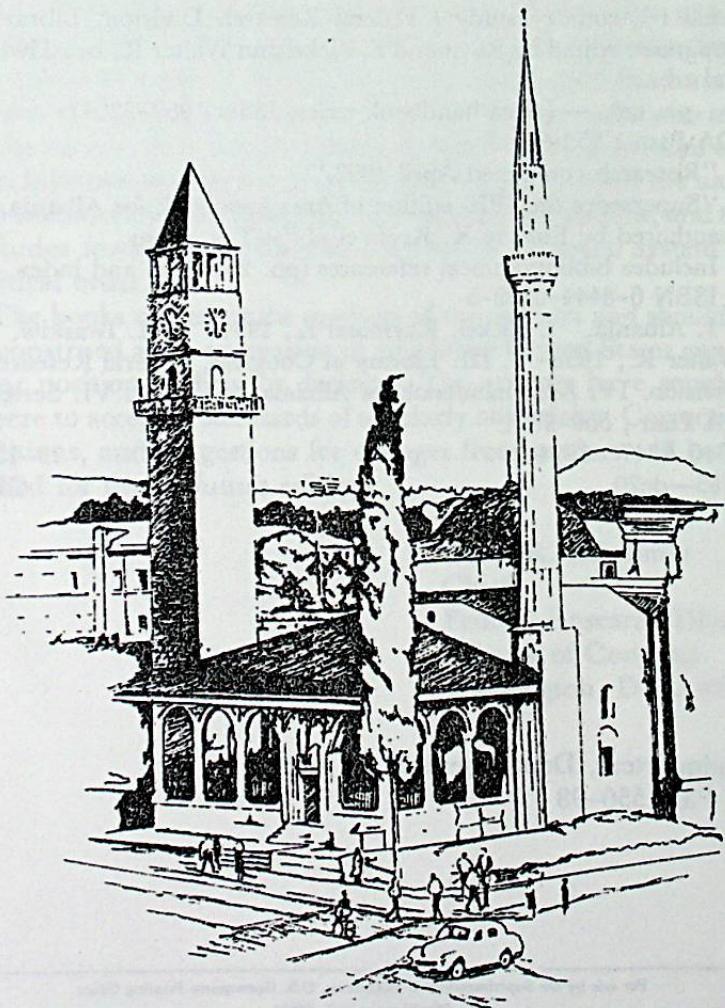


Albania

a country study

Federal Research Division
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Edited by
Raymond Zickel and
Walter R. Iwaskiw
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On the cover: Clock tower, mosque of Ethem Bey in central Tirane

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Foreword

This volume is one in a continuing series of books prepared by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress under the Country Studies/Area Handbook Program sponsored by the Department of the Army. The last page of this book lists the other published studies.

Most books in the series deal with a particular foreign country, describing and analyzing its political, economic, social, and national security systems and institutions, and examining the interrelationships of those systems and the ways they are shaped by cultural factors. Each study is written by a multidisciplinary team of social scientists. The authors seek to provide a basic understanding of the observed society, striving for a dynamic rather than a static portrayal. Particular attention is devoted to the people who make up the society, their origins, dominant beliefs and values, their common interests and the issues on which they are divided, the nature and extent of their involvement with national institutions, and their attitudes toward each other and toward their social system and political order.

The books represent the analysis of the authors and should not be construed as an expression of an official United States government position, policy, or decision. The authors have sought to adhere to accepted standards of scholarly objectivity. Corrections, additions, and suggestions for changes from readers will be welcomed for use in future editions.

Louis R. Mortimer
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ation of place names between, follows the system developed by the United States Board on Geographic Names. In the geographical context, preference is given to the generic term *Qytet*, rather than *Qyteti*. The term *Iliria* refers to the ancient Illyrians or Albanian tribes, used to denote those who have an ancient historical background. Abbreviations are given in the metric system, although some tables are provided to make reading easier for those familiar with the English system (see Appendix).

The reader of the text reflects information available as of April 1992. On other portions of the text, however, have been considered the limitations discussed, significant events that have occurred since the information contained in the Chronology and the Country Profile surface update, publications as mentioned and the Bibliography lists recently published works thought to be particularly helpful to the reader.