

NOEL MALCOLM

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# Bosnia

A Short History



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'Bosnia lies at the nodal point of the great historic civilizations and her history is difficult to write, because it needs several languages and a knowledge of very complicated events. In view of the Bosnian disaster today, it also needs an understanding of the world after the Cold War. To combine these qualifications in a book that is accessible is a formidable undertaking, defeating all but the best. Noel Malcolm is the best: here he has triumphed, and there is not a page, from the surveys of archaeological evidence at the start, to the moral condemnation at the end, which is out of place.'

NORMAN STONE

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*"Will be read as the definitive work  
for decades to come."*

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The years 1992 and 1993 will be remembered as the time in which a unique country was destroyed. It was a land with a political and cultural history unlike any other in Europe, a land where great powers and religions converged, overlapped, and combined: the empires of Rome, Charlemagne, the Ottomans, and the Austro-Hungarians; the faiths of Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Judaism, and Islam. Today, this rich past has become obscured by violence and war, shrouded in a bloody fog of ignorance and misinformation.

In this first-ever full history of Bosnia, Balkan specialist Noel Malcolm provides an account of the country from its beginnings to its tragic end. A triumph of narrative clarity, *Bosnia: A Short History* outlines and dispels the various myths of racial, religious, and political history which have so clouded the modern understanding of Bosnia's past. In particular, the book explodes the claim that the war in Bosnia was the inevitable consequence of "ancient ethnic hatreds." It

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