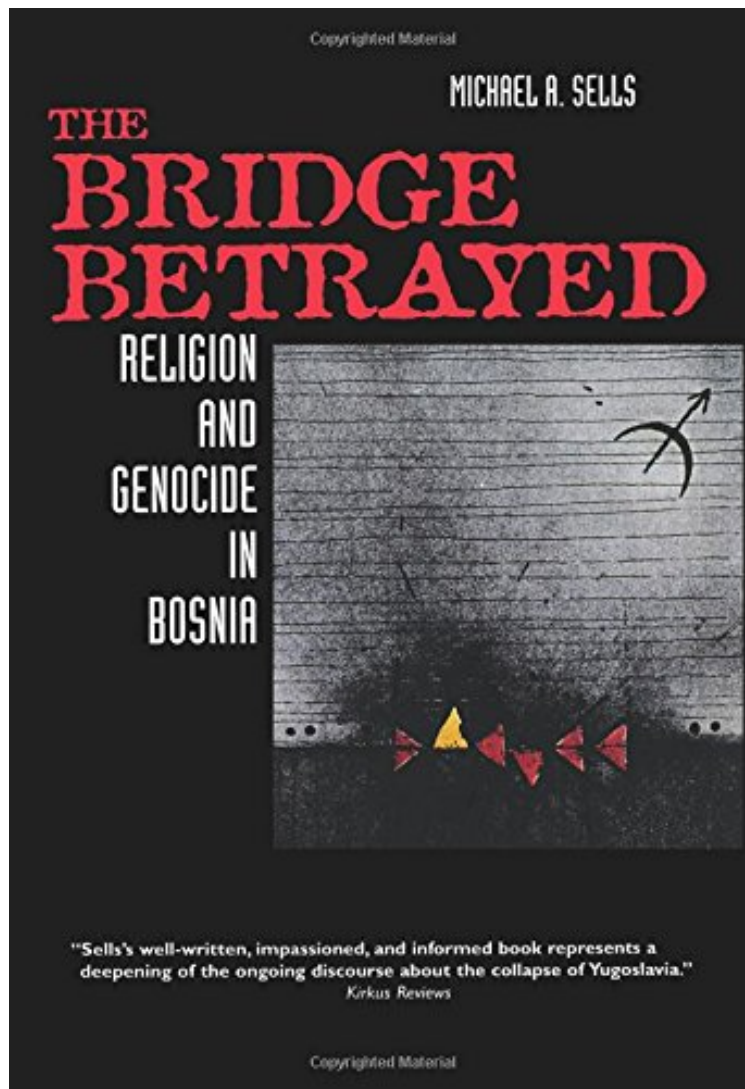


[Ebook free] The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society)

## The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society)

*Michl A. Sells*

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**Michl A. Sells : The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is awesome and very accurate By Matthew Nelson This book is awesome and very accurate. My teacher who was there in Bosnia during the war said it was extremely

accurate as well. Don't buy it from kindle they suck and are a bunch of jackasses. I tried for 2 hours with their "specialists" and they still couldn't get it to where I could read it they refunded my money but wouldn't do anything else to try to make it up to me. Holy crap they suck.

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. *The Bridge Betrayed* By P.K. Ryan The title of this book refers to the Bridge of Mostar in the city by that name in current day Bosnia. The bridge was built by the Ottomans in the 16th century and symbolized to many a bridge between East and West, Christian and Muslim etc. For hundreds of years, this area was home to a flourishing pluralistic culture that included Bosnian Muslims, Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs. This was all shattered when the nationalist tendencies that followed the break-up of Yugoslavia erupted in war and ethnic cleansing in the early 90s. In 1993, Croat nationalist forces destroyed the bridge in what Sells claims was a systematic campaign to eradicate Islamic culture from the region. Contrary to the myth of the Balkans as an inherently violent place of ancient hatreds, Sells sees the conflict's origins as much more recent. He describes how the Nazis occupied Croatia and engendered ethnic strife in the entire region. But the main thrust of the book is the religious nature of the conflict and what Sells describes as out and out genocide against Bosnian Muslims. This was perpetrated by both the Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs, with the latter seemingly the main culprit. Sells makes the case that the Serb's fanatical "Christoslavic" (a view that sees Slavs as inherently Christian and any Slavic converts to Islam as race traitors) was the driving force behind the entire conflict and describes the horrific consequences of this fanaticism. Bosnian civilians were routinely raped, tortured, and murdered with the support of many high ranking clergy. One of the most disturbing aspects of the situation was the attitudes and actions (or lack thereof) of the UN along with the American and European governments. Sells claims they knew genocide was happening but used the excuse of perennial conflict in the region to justify their non-action. My only complaint would be that Sells is a bit heavy on the moralizing and comes across as quite anti-Christian. He even goes so far as to place the Bosnian genocide into an alleged long line of European (and American) Christian violence against non-Christians. While there may be some truth to this view, I would call it a gross simplification to say the least. Nevertheless, this was a compelling and disturbing read.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A valuable contribution if not fully fleshed out. *The Bridge Betrayed* By Dylith A book about the war and genocide in Bosnia from 1992 - 1995, with a particular focus on the role that religious ideology played during the violence. The author examines Serbian Orthodox nationalism which includes strong religious Serbian Orthodox language and, to a lesser extent, delves into Croatian Catholic language and nationalism as well. The book was sourced pretty well and gives strong supporting arguments for its claims. I wished it had been a little more fleshed out, and at times I felt as though the author repeated himself rather than truly expanding on what he had previously written. Overall, a solid and enlightening read.

The recent atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina have stunned people throughout the world. With Holocaust memories still painfully vivid, a question haunts us: how is this savagery possible? Michael A. Sells answers by demonstrating that the Bosnian conflict is not simply a civil war or a feud of age-old adversaries. It is, he says, a systematic campaign of genocide and a Christian holy war spurred by religious mythologies. This passionate yet reasoned book examines how religious stereotyping in popular and official discourse has fueled Serbian and Croatian ethnic hatreds. Sells, who is himself Serbian American, traces the cultural logic of genocide to the manipulation by Serb nationalists of the symbolism of Christ's death, in which Muslims are "Christ-killers" and Judases who must be mercilessly destroyed. He shows how "Christoslavic" religious nationalism became a central part of Croat and Serbian politics, pointing out that intellectuals and clergy were key instruments in assimilating extreme religious and political ideas. Sells also elucidates the ways that Western policy makers have rewarded the perpetrators of the genocide and punished the victims. He concludes with a discussion of how the multireligious nature of Bosnian society has been a bridge between Christendom and Islam, symbolized by the now-destroyed bridge at Mostar. Drawing on historical documents, unpublished United Nations reports, articles from Serbian and Bosnian media, personal contacts in the region, and Internet postings, Sells reveals the central role played by religious mythology in the Bosnian tragedy. In addition, he makes clear how much is at stake for the entire world in the struggle to preserve Bosnia's existence as a multireligious society.

From *Library Journal* A Serbian American professor of religion, Sells (*Mystical Languages of Unsayings*, Univ. of Chicago, 1994) explores all angles surrounding the recent systematic destruction of the Bosnian Muslims. He lays down a solid background of the origins of the war and explains the Serbian attitude that religion equals nationality, which shows why the Serbs believe the Muslims are traitorous to their country. Sells also describes Croatia's role in the conflict. Along with some fascinating reports and details on the genocide, he spends the final two chapters blasting the UN, NATO, and the West for not becoming more involved in stopping the crimes against the Bosnians. His work is recommended for all academic and large public libraries for its ability to explain this confusing war clearly. *Jill Jaracz*, Professionals Lib. Service, Chicago Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Sells's well-written, impassioned, and informed book represents a deepening of the ongoing discourse about the collapse of Yugoslavia." -- "Kirkus sFrom the Inside Flap" Sells brings a deep historical perspective to bear on recent events, and he powerfully

indicts not only those Balkan leaders who manipulate popular fears and fanaticism to further their expansionist aims, but also those Western politicians and diplomats who helped obscure the truth about the campaign by Serb and Croat religious nationalists to destroy the uniquely rich culture of Bosnia."William Finnegan, staff reporter for The New Yorker and author of A Complicated War