

Unfinest Hour: Britain and the Destruction of Bosnia

Von *Brendan Simms*

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UNFINEST HOUR


'A potent blend of moral outrage and scrupulous research, exposing the culpability of those apparently civilized and intelligent British politicians who betrayed the people of Bosnia'

Francis Wheen, *Guardian*, Books of the Year

BRITAIN AND THE DESTRUCTION OF BOSNIA

Brendan Simms 

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Von Brendan Simms : Unfinest Hour: Britain and the Destruction of Bosnia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unfinest Hour: Britain and the Destruction of Bosnia:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mutige Aufarbeitung westlichen Versagens Von magic88wand Dieses Buch war das erste, das das moralische und politische Versagen der westlichen - und insbesondere britischen - Politik im Bosnienkrieg detailliert und wissenschaftlich fundiert aufgezeigt hat. Interessant sind insbesondere die Darstellungen zur zwielfichtigen Rolle von Douglas Hurd, der

bis kurz vor Ende des Krieges Außenminister von Großbritannien war und wenig später geschäftliche Interessen in Serbien wahrnahm. Demnach war er es, der die USA lange Zeit von einer konstruktiven Politik abhielt und sich verbissen für die Beibehaltung eines Waffenembargos einsetzte, das der bosnischen-serbischen Armeeführung gestattete, unbekümmert Waffen aus Serbien einzuführen, um so die Politik der ethnischen Suberungen aufrechtzuerhalten. Während das Buch in Großbritannien - wo der Autor an der Universität Cambridge lehrt - anfangs polemisch und verachtend kommentiert wurde (z.B. Rezension in "The Economist"), wird es inzwischen selbst dort von Vielen als ein Schlüsselwerk gesehen, das geholfen hat, die Geschichte zu verstehen und zu verarbeiten. Fazit: uneingeschränkt empfehlenswert.

Kurzbeschreibung For most of 1992-1995, Britain stood aside while an internationally recognised state was attacked by externally-sponsored rebels bent on a campaign of territorial aggression and ethnic cleansing. It was her unfinest hour since 1938. Based on interviews with many of the chief participants, parliamentary debates, and a wide range of sources, Brendan Simm's brilliant study traces the roots of British policy and the highly sophisticated way in which the government sought to minimise the crisis and defuse popular and American pressure for action. We all continue to live with the results of these shameful actions to this day..deUnfinest Hour is a remarkable indictment of British policy in the former Yugoslavia when it was Bosnia that dominated the headlines. What happened in Bosnia towards the close of a world-war-splattered century seems small beer this side of the millennium divide and immediate risk of another global confrontation, but it wasn't and still isn't. The Serbian perpetrators of ethnic cleansing are still largely on the loose, and the lessons learned needed to be understood. Brendon Simms, author of this revealing study, is Director of Studies in History at Peterhouse and lecturer in International Relations at the Centre for International Studies, Cambridge University. What he has to say is that, essentially, Britain's role in the Bosnian tragedy, was nothing short of being disastrous. He has carried out dozens of interviews, trawled through the documents and come to the conclusion that Britain's political leaders were afflicted by a disabling form of conservative pessimism which not only rejected military intervention by Britain but prevented any other country intervening. Attitudes changed with the change of government by the time of Kosovo for, as the current, much wider crisis only too telling reminds us: isolationism is no longer an option. --Michael Hatfield.Pressestimmen "This is the best sort of polemical book: hard-hitting, well researched and stimulating, with a preference for analysis over sensation."