

Young, Antonia: Albania. Revised edition. Co-authors: John Hodgson and Nigel Young. Oxford, Santa Barbara & Denver. Clio Press. 1997. xviii + 295 pp. (World Bibliographical Series, Vol. 94). ISBN 1-85109-260-9. 58 GBP.

Most academic and scholarly libraries have them in their reference sections, the blue bibliographies of Clio's 'World Bibliographical Series'. Over two hundred of them have now been published, representing virtually every country and territory on earth. Volume 94 on Albania was originally compiled and published in 1988 by William B. Bland, then head of the Marxist-Leninist-oriented 'Albanian Society' of Britain. While devoid of outright censorship and an achievement in itself, the first edition betrayed much of Bland's unbounded and naive enthusiasm for the "workers' paradise" that was the Socialist People's Republic of Albania under Enver Hoxha and Ramiz Alia. Without wishing to enter into political polemics, it is sufficient to note that Albania of the '90s is a completely different country and, as such, a second edition of the bibliography is more than welcome.

Antonia Young of the universities of Bradford (UK) and Colgate (US), a scholar with a good background in anthropology and peace studies, has updated the bibliography to the end of 1997 and, at the same time, has purged it of many an obscure publication from Communist Albania, which the Western reader would not be able to access now anyway.

The book contains a short explanatory 'Preface' (xv-xvi) and a general 'Introduction' on Albania, the country, its people, history and language (xvii-xxv), together with a 'Chronology' from 2000 B.C. to October 1997 A.D. (xxvii-xxxvi), a useful but not entirely accurate 'Table of Place-Names' (xxxvii-xl), twenty-four short biographical sketches on 'Individuals of Note in Albania's History' (xli-xlvi) and a 'Note on Pronunciation' (xlvii-xlviii). The corpus of the bibliography is followed by three indexes: 'Index of Authors' (p. 249-257), 'Index of Titles' (p. 258-277) and 'Index of Subjects' (p. 278-294), as well as a basic map of Albania and (part of) Kosovo (p. 295).

The selective bibliography itself (p. 1-247) encompasses 922 well-annotated entries. Young has followed the general thematic classifications set out by the series, which enables the reader interested in a particular subject to access relevant publications easily and without the index. The subject headings [and number of entries] included are as follows: The Country and its People [29], Geography [18], Geology [10], Travel and Travellers' Accounts [70], Flora and Fauna [10], Archaeology and Prehistory [17], History [113], Anthropology, Ethnology and Folklore [25], Demography [5], Nationalities and Minorities [22], Refugees [3], Albanian Communities outside Albania [40], Language [48], Religion [35], Social Change [23], Land Privatization [6], Women [13], Health and Social Services [16], Politics and Political Parties [35], Constitution and Law [23], Human Rights and Dissent [10], Foreign Relations [55], Defence [7], Economy [24], Banking and Finance [6], Industry [4], Agriculture [9], Transport [6], Planning, Environmental Protection and Conservation [5], Education [11], Literature [56], The Arts [51], Food and Drink [4], Sports, Recreation and Hobbies [6], Libraries, Museums and Archives [6], Communications and Media [8], Newspapers and Magazines [27], Periodicals in Albanian [27], Periodicals in English and Other Foreign Languages [20], Encyclopaedias and Reference Works [6], and Bibliographies [24]. Concentration is on English-language works, although some selected monographs and articles in French, German, Italian and Albanian are given where appropriate. Of course not all publications fall into clear-cut categories and, as such, some entries are misleading. Peter Bartl's *Die albanischen Muslime zur Zeit der nationalen Unabhängigkeitsbewegung 1878-1912* (Wiesbaden 1968) and his two-volume *Quellen und Materialien zur albanischen Geschichte im 17. Und 18. Jahrhundert* (Wiesbaden 1975 & Munich 1979), which are entered under 'Religion', should be classified more appropriately as works of Albanian 'History'. Bartl's recent *Albanien: vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart* (Munich 1995),

perhaps one of the most concise histories of Albania written in any language, is classified alas not as 'History' but under 'Encyclopaedias and Reference Works'. This could also be taken as a compliment though.

As mentioned above, each of the 922 entries is annotated with a short paragraph on the contents and significance of the work in question, on its author, and occasionally on related works to be consulted. The annotations, devoid of the sociopolitical prejudices of the earlier volume, are in fact what make Antonia Young's bibliography not only an extremely useful and informative work of reference but also a delight to read.

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