

CAPSULE REVIEW January/February 2011 Issue

Twilight of Impunity: The War Crimes Trial of Slobodan Milosevic

by *Judith Armatta*

Reviewed by *Robert Legvold*

In This Review



Armatta, a lawyer, journalist, human rights activist, and expert on the Balkans, sat through three years of excruciating testimony in The Hague for the first trial of a head of state since Admiral Karl Dönitz at Nuremberg -- the trial of Slobodan Milosevic for 66 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. By her own confession, she was scarcely an impartial observer, having witnessed much of what served as the basis for the charges, but she provides more than a fair analysis of the proceedings' fumbblings and ill-advised decisions. Hers is the front-row view of a first-rate court reporter, giving the reader a TiVo-like version, culled of dead space and repetition, that is still exhausting in its arduous pace and detail. Diligently, she watched and recorded as the court probed all three charges from Kosovo, back through the Croatian and Bosnian wars, tediously piling up the evidence as Milosevic bobbed and weaved. One comes away half heartened by the effort to answer unspeakable cruelty and suffering with justice but, in a way, more saddened by Milosevic's slippery success in persuading his partisans and many of his countrymen that they, not he, were on trial, the victims of great power bullies. And then there is the whimper with which it was all ended, by a heart attack that left him

This site uses cookies to improve your user experience. [Click here](#) to learn more.

CONTINUE

Become a Subscriber

Paywall-free reading of new articles posted daily online and almost a century of archives

Unlock access to iOS/Android apps to save editions for offline reading

Six issues a year in print, online, and audio editions

SUBSCRIBE NOW

This site uses cookies to improve your user experience. [Click here](#) to learn more.

CONTINUE

Stay informed.

Get the latest book reviews delivered to your inbox.

SIGN UP

More Reviews on Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Republics From This Issue

This site uses cookies to improve your user experience. [Click here](#) to learn more.

CONTINUE

In locating the wellsprings of modern national consciousness in the Czech Republic, and by extension its liberal political culture, David credits the ideas of the...

Reviewed by Robert Legvold



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

CAPSULE REVIEW

Lonely Power

Shevtsova allies with those experts who have been most critical of Russia, but when it comes to action, she aligns herself with those who want to engage Russia and...

Reviewed by Robert Legvold



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

CAPSULE REVIEW

Building States and Markets After Communism: The Perils of Polarized Democracy

Frye brings a particularly rigorous approach to explaining the speed and constancy of postsocialist economic reform and the creation of state institutions conducive to...

Reviewed by Robert Legvold



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

CAPSULE REVIEW

The Victims Return: Survivors of the Gulag After Stalin

Cohen's book tells the story of how survivors of the gulag experienced liberation, what happened when they reentered society, and how, with varying degrees of success,...

Reviewed by Robert Legvold



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

CAPSULE REVIEW

The Return: Russia's Journey From Gorbachev to Medvedev

Treisman argues that in crossing the rocky road of the last 25 years, Russia has emerged from the hermitic life of socialism to join in the normal process of...

This site uses cookies to improve your user experience. [Click here](#) to learn more.

CONTINUE

Browse All Capsule Reviews >

RELATED ARTICLES

MAY 6, 2019

SNAPSHOT

The Battle for India's Soul

The Election Will Determine What Comes After Secularism

Milan Vaishnav



Get the Magazine
Save up to 55%

on Foreign Affairs magazine!

SUBSCRIBE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Weekly Newsletter
Get in-depth analysis delivered right to your inbox

This site uses cookies to improve your user experience. [Click here](#) to learn more.

CONTINUE

ABOUT

CONTACT

SUBSCRIPTION

FOLLOW

COUNTRY FOCUS

GRADUATE SCHOOL FORUM

From the
publishers
of *Foreign Affairs*

The Most:

Recent

Shared

Viewed

Viktor Orban's U.S. Visit Could Bolster Europe's Populists
by Charles A. Kupchan

Archie, Africa, and the Commonwealth
by John Campbell

A Federalist U.S. Approach to Remaining in the Paris Climate Accord
by Amy M. Jaffe

Published by the Council on Foreign Relations

[Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#)

©2019 Council on Foreign Relations, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

This site uses cookies to improve your user experience. [Click here](#) to learn more.

CONTINUE