

The International Community and the European Union in the Western Balkans: from ‘Disinterest’ to ‘Active Participation’

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ABSTRACT

This article's intention is to frame the debate on the role of the international community and the European Union in the Western Balkans. The article deals mostly with the historical facts in concepts that were developed in the Balkans; starting with the role of the Ottoman empire, which traces can be found in the Balkans still today and going through the bloody 20th century wars – from WWI and WWII to the Balkan wars, which deeply penetrated the modern structure and thinking in, on and about the Western Balkans. The article finishes with a short analysis of the international community's activities in the Western Balkans that presents the pillars for the following debate in the following articles.

KEY WORDS: Balkans, Western Balkan, Yugoslav wars, European Union, International Community

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