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### Book Review

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### *Imagining the Balkans*

*By Maria Todorova*

*Oxford University Press, 2009*

*288 pages*

*ISBN 0199728380, 9780199728381*

‘Imagining the Balkans’ is written by the famous history professor, Maria Todorova and was first published in 1997 by Oxford University Press.

Maria Todorova considers the Balkan lands stepchild of Europe in her book where she depicts the Balkans that are the other in Europe. Todorova says that in academic and daily language, Balkanisation term refers to division in western idea.

Are the Balkans like that in reality? The book doesn’t lay much emphasis on this topic. What caused the Balkans to be regarded in that way? The author focuses much more on this.

The author draws attention to the issue that Europe has a different image in the Balkans as well. Most Balkan citizens don’t see themselves as European. Even, for the ones going to the countries such as France or England, it is said that “they went to Europe” because they don’t embrace this continent themselves.

Bulgarian historian Maria Todorova says that the Balkans walk around like a ghost in western culture, and the Balkan ghost appears before Europeans out of the blue and uncovers the ugliness of the west that it tries to hide with make-up.

Wishing the Ottoman culture strengthen, the Balkans give the message to our intellectuals that “get rid of your complexes and claim your own part” by making them feel its existence since it can’t split from the Ottoman history as its child. In my opinion, it is a didactic book that people from all walks of life can read easily.

