

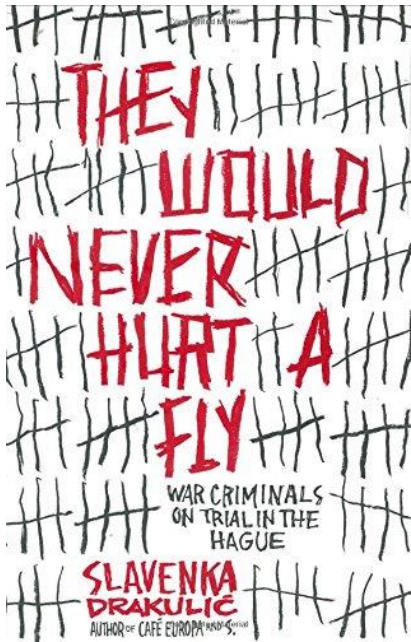
“They Never Hurt a Fly: War Criminals on Trial in The Hague”

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To begin with, in her book, *They Never Hurt a Fly: War Criminals on Trial in The Hague* (Drakulic, 2005), specializes in an interpretive exercise on war crimes in the Balkans by spinning the socio-psychological tales of the perpetrators and I want to give information briefly. Each of the thirteen chapters of this book, excluding the first and last chapters, deals with specific individuals and the crimes they allegedly committed during the 1991–95 Bosnian civil war. They are based on a five-month observation made by the author of the proceedings of the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Nine of the chapters deal with Serb war criminals, there are two chapters on Croats, none of which cover Muslim or Bosnian war criminals. The Communist

Party was supported by Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia who is (nationalist). When a referendum was held between the nations, they wanted independence from Yugoslavia, Slovenia took the first step, the revolt started and it jumped into Croatia. Slobodan Milosevic sent the army there under the pretext of defending the Serb minority in Croatia, and the site of Vukovar was destroyed. In Bosnia, the war ended with the Dayton Agreement, but in Kosovo it was not over yet by the way, there are mainly Albanians in Kosovo. Milosevic also struck here, and there was a humanitarian tragedy. Milosevic lost the election in the year 2000. However, the book also includes rapes and psychological assays. The lack of a clear history of the Second World War did in fact, contribute to the Yugoslav war because according to the book, leaders made simple use of images like those they knew, to use

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people's emotional memories, and to generate contempt for them. Where there is no true history, each person has a series of ages in his own mind, it becomes risky. The quest for justice in The Hague and the positive effect it has on people can be described as follows; people are more likely to live with lies than with truth, such that attempts to administer justice through the court or even through local courts are seen as an injustice. Justice must come from the Hague, since justice for war criminals is perceived as a danger to the rest of the world. The author notes that the defense correctly pointed out that Jelisić acted as an executioner only during those eighteen days in May not before and not after. The author indicates that being compelled to obey orders does not completely justify Jelisić's murders of Muslims. It means that Jelisić always had a pathological side that arose as the war went on and his world turned upside down, that he could no longer lie in the grass and enjoy fishing, or be quiet. Mladić was punished for what he had done in Bosnia, he had destroyed Bosnia, but at the end of the day Bosnia had ended it. The gods took revenge on him. His fate was like a Greek tragedy in which the gods interfered with the hero's life and punished him for his humiliation while he was still alive. He has witnessed the pain that he has inflicted on thousands of people. Biljana Plavšić was one of the few war criminals prosecuted in The Hague since she took full responsibility for the crimes, and her words recognized her guilt. She was the first and only political or military delegate to take on the role of the International Tribunal. If we believe the criminals to be monsters, we would create a great distance between them and us in order to completely isolate them from society. Normal people could not have done what these beings have done, we are regular people, so we cannot commit such crimes.

The book deals with some of the main problems in the area of transformative justice, such as the concept of justice, how it applies to legal, political and moral obligation and what this entails in practical terms. But I would like to say that for me, Drakulic overestimates the willingness of her readers to trust in her construction of personal histories as a framework for the explanation of the present. Unfortunately, Drakulic does not clearly admit that her stance draws on her unique and subjective interpretation of both the political realities of the war and the history of Yugoslavia. Drakulic fails to understand the strength of her narrative position in mapping what has occurred, determining the casualties and emphasizing those agencies and incidents, while at the same time toning down the relevance of others. The fact that Drakulic ends her book with questions and suspicions rather than with an inventory of responses and certainties is not merely a sign of intellectual honesty on her part. More significantly, it is a realization that in cases of sorrow and grieving, when we become inscrutable, questions are more telling than answers. Besides, If us it means readers, approach this book only as a description of war crimes in the Balkans, we do not understand the richness of Drakulic's account of post-authoritarian justice. It is the most vital thing according to me

in the context of a book. By the same token to 'Justice' and 'Reality,' 'Reconciliation' is the other important buzzword of post-conflict studies, and there is a very distorted view at the end of the book when Drakulic visits the ICTY Detention Unit. Here were put together the convicted war criminals, Serbs, Croats and Muslims, who perpetrated or engaged in the worst massacres of post-World War II Europe in the name of shared ethnic hatred – and they all came together. According to Drakulic's one of the most interesting factors that arose from the ICTY was not that many people were prosecuted, but Plavsic openly admitted the reality of the Serb atrocities: following her acknowledgement that Serbs were perpetrators, nobody can deny it any longer. Here are also great tales of courage and survival, both of those who helped Bosnians escape from the Serbs and of those who sacrificed their lives to protect them.

Sources

Drakulic, S. (2005). *They Would Never Hurt a Fly: War Criminals on Trial in The Hague*. Penguin Books.