

A chronicle of six or seven countries

Yugoslavia

JOHAN DE BOOSE

Yugoslavia began as an aspiration, as the noble ideal of uniting the southern Slavic peoples. What followed was a meandering and often turbulent history: from kingdom to socialist republic, from tourist paradise to warzone.

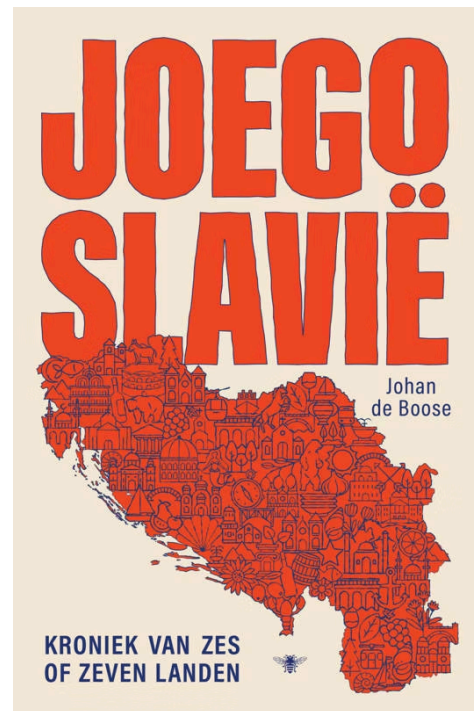
In this gripping book, Johan de Boose – poet, doctor in Slavic studies and seasoned traveller in Eastern Europe – journeys through the former Yugoslavia. He searches for what the country once was and seeks to understand why it eventually fell apart. Having learned the languages, he lived there for a while and spoke with people from every corner of the region. Based on his observations, reading, and films, he unfolds the story of a country – a story that is both unique and universal.

Yugoslavia becomes a fractured mirror held up to Europe: the problems the continent struggles with today emerged years earlier in the Balkans. In a Europe that increasingly seems to dance to a thousand tunes, the tale of Yugoslavia has taken on renewed relevance.

Part travel narrative, part history lesson, and part declaration of love, ‘Yugoslavia’ offers a rich, layered portrait of a fascinating region — a chronicle of ideas, conflicts, and the fragile art of living together.

There is little in ‘Yugoslavia’ that has never been in a book before, but a great deal that has never been together in one book. Belgian writer Johan de Boose throws himself with unprecedented eagerness and curiosity onto the former multi-ethnic state.

DE VOLKSKRANT



AUTHOR



Johan de Boose (b. 1962) has a doctorate in Slavonic Studies and has worked as an author and actor with various theatre groups and as a producer and presenter for television and radio. Since 2003, he has devoted himself full-time to writing poetry, literary nonfiction and fiction about his travels in eastern Europe. He has won several awards, including the Halewijnprijs and the Cutting Edge Award. Photo © Michiel Hendryckx

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