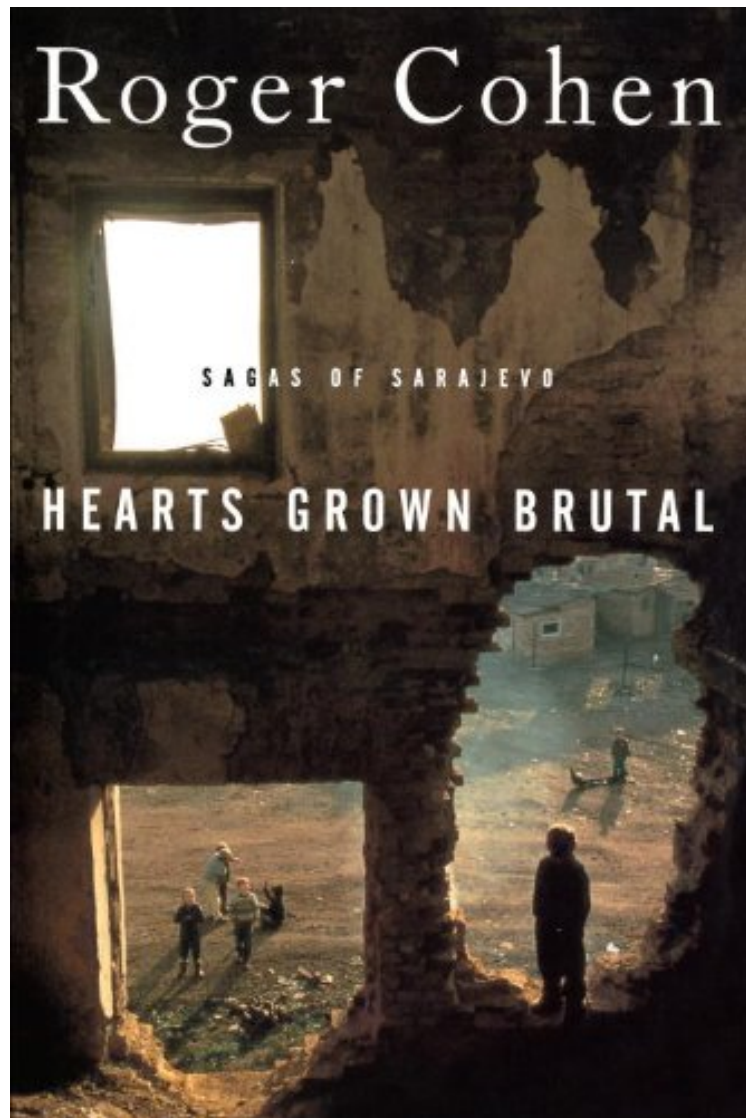


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Hearts Grown Brutal: Sagas of Sarajevo

Von Roger Cohen

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Von Roger Cohen : Hearts Grown Brutal: Sagas of Sarajevo before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hearts Grown Brutal: Sagas of Sarajevo:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bad
Craziness in the BalkansVon Ein KundeIt is said that history repeats itself, but never so quickly and with such dismal
sameness as in the former Yugoslavia. I purchased this book in hopes of gaining a greater understanding of the conflict
there, and managed to start reading it just in time for the current round of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and NATO's (and
the US's) disorganized response to it. The book is extremely well-written and structured in an interesting way,

beginning with the story of one young man's decades-long search for his father, a Bosnian Muslim who faded from his family's knowledge in the chaos of World War II. The gut-wrenching conclusion to that first part of the book, so full of pathos that you can hardly believe it really happened (but know that it did) leads into the Bosnian war of the early 1990's, centering on the long and ugly death of the city of Sarajevo and the toll it took on several other families. Cohen pulls no punches in letting the reader know exactly how he feels about the UN's response to that conflict. I would certainly like to hear his take on the current situation there, which he all but predicted at the end of this book. I would recommend "Hearts Grown Brutal" to anyone who would like to sort out in their own minds what really happened in Bosnia and Sarajevo such a short few years ago. In light of today's headlines, the book certainly provides food for thought as to America's response and responsibilities in this area of the world.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great book on the sadness of BosniaVon Ein KundeI called Roger Cohen in Germany late one night after reading most of his book, and probably scared him that out in Kansas, someone knows about Bosnia. I had to tell him that he had written the book I wish I could have done. I've been to Sarajevo (in 1997 for a month staying with families of students I had hosted) and have been host to 15 Sarajevo students from 1993-1997, with two living with me at a time. (Every combination of religion was represented, by the way.) Mr. Cohen tells the truth. With Kosovo (what a surprise) starting up again, it is important that a writer of Cohen's abilities lead us back to the reality of the war in Bosna and Hercegovina. Along with Roy Gutman's books, and a Short History of Bosnia, this is a must read. I hope someone on Clinton's staff has it. George Laughead Jr.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A sad, depressing, and brutally honest bookVon Ein KundeAfter a few hundred pages, when your ability to read about another Balkans family and their plight begins to wane, Cohen presents some new detail in an individual life that forces you to refocus on how the war crushed people so much like Americans and so very European that the "ancient hatreds" argument becomes sickening. To read about a 16-year-old girl's Tom Cruise poster and her death by shelling is to realize how much the West failed. Compelling, brutal, depressing, and vital reading.

KurzbeschreibungIn this brilliant book, Roger Cohen of The New York Times weaves together the history of Yugoslavia and the story of the Bosnian War of 1992 to 1995, as experienced by four families. I have tried to treat the story of Yugoslavia, which lived for seventy-three years, as a human one, Cohen writes in this masterly book, which, like Thomas L. Friedmans From Beirut to Jerusalem and David Remnicks Lenins Tomb, makes us eyewitnesses at the center of historic events. In the aftermath of the Cold War, the Bosnian conflict shattered the West's confidence, reviving Europe's darkest ghosts and exposing an America reluctant to confront or acknowledge an act of genocide on European soil. Through Cohen's compelling reconstruction of the twentieth-century history that led up to the war, and his account of the war's effect on everyday lives, we at last find the key to understanding Europe's most explosive region and its peoples. This was a war of intimate betrayals, Cohen goes on to say, and in Hearts Grown Brutal, the betrayals begin in the family of a man named Sead. Through his search for his lost father, we relive the history of Yugoslavia, founded at the end of World War I with the encouragement of President Woodrow Wilson. Sead's desperate quest is punctuated by the lies, half truths, and pain that mark other sagas of Yugoslavia. Through three more families one Muslim-Serb, one Muslim, and one Serb-Croat we experience the war in Bosnia as it breaks up marriages and sets relatives against relatives. The reality of the Balkans is illuminated, even as the hypocrisy of the international response to the war is exposed. Hearts Grown Brutal is a remarkable book, a testament to the loss of a multi-ethnic European state and a warning that the violence could return. It is a magnificent achievement that blends history and journalism into a profoundly moving human story..deThe 73-year life span of Yugoslavia roughly coincides with what historians have called "the short 20th century," from the onset of World War I to the end of the cold war. It was always a tenuously constructed nation, and when it finally collapsed, Roger Cohen was there, dutifully filing reports for the New York Times. In Hearts Grown Brutal, he adds depth and personal drama to the stories of civil war and ethnicide, and he points an accusing finger at the Western nations who put the lie to any notion of a "new world order" by offering only half-hearted challenges to Serbian aggression until nearly 250,000 innocents had died and 2.7 million civilians had been driven from their homes. Cohen, like many Western analysts, observes that the clash between Muslim Bosnians, Catholic Croats, and Orthodox Serbs had been in the making for hundreds of years. But he locates the origins of the recent "collective madness"--as one Serbian leader called it--in World War II, when Croatia sided with the Nazis and when Serbia took the opportunity of the German invasion to settle old scores against Croats, Muslims, Jews, and Gypsies. Ordinary men and women of Yugoslavia committed extraordinary acts of inhumanity against one another during the war against Hitler. Post-Communist civil war gave them license to hate one another anew: when Serbia struck out at Bosnia and Croatia, all three nations fell into a frenzy of slaughter whose repercussions will be felt for generations to come. Hearts Grown Brutal is a somber, horrifying indictment of all involved that stands as an essential work of contemporary history. --Gregory McNamee.comThe 73-year life span of Yugoslavia roughly coincides with what historians have called "the short 20th century," from the onset of World War I to the end of the cold war. It was always a tenuously constructed nation, and when it finally collapsed, Roger Cohen

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